

best methods of procedure, and published from time to time skilfully prepared articles in the press. Gradually the minds of his fellow-citizens changed, and they came to look upon the scheme as practicable and of great benefit. In 1817 Mr. Eichbaum secured the passage of an act authorizing the incorporation of a company, but for twelve years after this move nothing could be done. At last, in 1829, a survey of the project was authorized, and seven years later, in 1836, the final act of incorporation was passed, and his scheme became a reality. The Monongahela Slackwater was made navigable, and has brought untold wealth to Pittsburgh ever since. In recognition of his valuable services in accomplishing this important improvement, Mr. Eichbaum was honored with the position of the first President of the company after its permanent organization. That he enjoyed the high esteem of his fellow-citizens is evidenced by the following facts: At the centennial celebration of the birth of Washington, he was made chairman of the committee to conduct the ceremonies. In 1824, when General Lafayette visited Pittsburgh, Mr. Eichbaum was chairman of the committee appointed to receive the honored guest. For many years he was the efficient chief of the fire department of the city, and from 1822 to 1833 he held the office of Postmaster of Pittsburgh. In the latter position he proved himself the most accommodating and painstaking of public officials; this won for him the endearing esteem which he continued to enjoy through life. For twenty-two consecutive years he was elected to and served in the Councils of the city of Pittsburgh, and was chairman of either branch. In 1858, he was elected City Treasurer; this latter office he held until he died in 1866, a period of eight years. Mr. Eichbaum had accumulated a comfortable fortune by years of thrift and enterprise. On April 10, 1845, he had the misfortune to lose most of his property by fire. The public press, on reviewing his life at the time of his death, stated that "he had met his loss with fewer regrets than would have been possible to most men. He had large resources in his conscious honor, in the esteem of his fellow-citizens, and the companionship of his noble thoughts, and many true and faithful friends. His earnest Christian religion made him see providential blessings in the disguise of adversities." Mr. Eichbaum was also an inventive genius. Letter-paper and books of account have to be ruled by lines easily visible, and yet without the glaring effect produced by ordinary ink. In order to ob-

tain faint ink, to use on a machine he had constructed, he attenuated his ruling inks in various ways, but for a long time was unable to prepare it in such a way as to give the desired effect of faint lines. While he revolved this subject in his mind, he met an expert European bookbinder, who knew the secret of preparing inks for faint ruling. The man was in distress, and Mr. Eichbaum helped him and befriended him. On asking him for his secret, the man answered, "I cannot reveal the secret to any one, for I am bound to keep it. But you have acted the good Samaritan by me, and I will give you a hint. Mix with your ink a certain small part of a very large animal." For days and nights Mr. Eichbaum pondered what this "small part of a large animal" could possibly mean, until one day on passing a slaughter-house he bethought himself of ox-gall. He thereupon mixed ox-gall with his ink; it diffused over the paper nicely, and produced the desired effect of faint ruling. He finally also improved the ruling machine itself. Mr. Eichbaum also discovered the process of making Russia sheet-iron, but on account of old age he did not go into the manufacture of this article. Before this he introduced, in conjunction with Henry McCarthy, a patent lock for ship-canals, which was found very useful in the Sault Ste. Marie Canal, the Monongahela Slackwater, and the dams of the Green and Duck Rivers, Ky. When Mr. Eichbaum died, he had lived seventy years in Pittsburgh, and for sixty years had identified himself with the extraordinary development of that city. When he first arrived there as a boy of ten years, Fort Pitt was a small outpost of civilization, containing less than a hundred houses. Since then the place grew to a populous and opulent manufacturing and trading centre, and Mr. Eichbaum was one of the leading and most efficient promoters of this wonderful result.

SAMUEL REED JOHNSTON.

SAMUEL REED JOHNSTON, a celebrated artist printer and inventor of artistic designs in the printing business, was born at Pittsburgh, Pa., in 1831, and died there March 23, 1891. He was the son of Samuel Reed Johnston, of the well-known printing and book-publishing firm of Eichbaum & Johnston, of Pittsburgh, and the nephew of William Eichbaum. Mr. Johnston's grandfather, who was a silversmith, had also lived at Pittsburgh for many years. From this it ap-

pears that the subject of the present sketch is of old and genuine Pennsylvania stock. Upon leaving school, wherein Samuel Reed Johnston had received a careful education, he entered into mercantile life, and continued in it for six years. He thus acquired the knowledge of commercial affairs, which benefited him greatly in after years. As a young man he spent much of his leisure time in his father's printing-office. He had at that time no intention to become a printer, yet by association he gradually picked up a good deal of knowledge of the "art preservative of all arts." His father urged him to enter into the printing business, but this profession was little to his personal liking, since he held the preconceived opinion that he was destined for a merchant and not for a printer. At length his father prevailed on him to learn the printing art systematically. He entered upon his apprenticeship with a vim; and after a few years became so skilful that he was made superintendent of S. R. Johnston's large printing department. He was before all things a progressive man. There was no standstill with him. He always studied the best means and methods of his art, and endeavored to introduce them. In doing this he aroused much antipathy on the part of the old "ruts," as he called those printers who never wanted to learn anything new, however good it might be, after they had once completed their apprenticeship. Warfare began between the latter and the progressive young superintendent. The fight was short but decisive. Mr. Johnston triumphed fully and completely in short order. All dirty printing work, as well as all dirty employees, he thoroughly detested, as well as everything common or below mediocrity. He wanted only first-class men and clean printers about him. His office became a model of neatness and was admired by all progressive printers. In 1877, Mr. Johnston invented a system of chaotic multi-colored tinting, to which he gave the name of "owl-type." His productions in this line were eagerly sought for. How the work was being done, Johnston kept secret for many years, but at last he gave his process of owl-typing voluntarily to the craft. It astonished most art-printers when they learned how simple the thing was. In 1881, Mr. Johnston associated himself with his cousin, Joseph Eichbaum, in the printing, stationery, and book-binding business, under the firm name of Joseph Eichbaum & Co., in Pittsburgh, Pa. It was in reality a continuation of the old firm of Eichbaum & Johnston, but with new blood infused into its management. Samuel Reed John-

ston again took charge of the printing department of this new firm. As he had already done before, he now strove with renewed vigor to be an artist printer, not by bold and fanciful color combinations and flighty ornamentation of his work, but by chaste, pure, and genuinely æsthetic printing, by delicate yet original and simple designs. Very soon the firm of Joseph Eichbaum & Co. became the leading printing establishment for artistic work west of the Alleghany Mountains. Mr. Johnston himself became known among printers as the "Puritan in Typography." No more telling appellation could have been applied to him, for he was eminently a "Puritan," eschewing all flighty and fantastic flourishes. His work was eminently pure, classical, and truly beautiful. Upon such work the fame and prosperity of the firm was founded. Personally, Mr. Johnston was one of the gentlest of men to those who were intimate with him. He made friends very easily, and was loved by all who knew him well. Only the "rut-printers" were a thorn in his flesh. For those in real need he had always a helping hand, being of a very generous disposition. In his business transactions he was known for strict integrity. As regards his religious affiliations he had been raised a Presbyterian, and was a regular member of the First Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh; but during the last few years of his life he attended the Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Allegheny City. From April 11, 1861, till his death, he was a member of St. John's Lodge, No. 219 F. A. M. He was a Master Mason. Mr. Johnston was married to Miss Alice Beeson, of Pittsburgh, daughter of Mr. Richard Beeson, of Uniontown, Pa. Of the children born to him there are now five living, viz., Richard B., Robert C., Mary L., wife of E. D. Bingham, attorney, of Westchester, Pa., and Misses Alice R. and Agnes W. Mr. Johnston passed away in his sixtieth year. He had attained well-merited fame in the art-printing business, and his admirable system of conducting printing establishments was bearing rich and abundant fruit. His noble example had already been imitated by printers far and wide. The great printers and lovers of artistic work sincerely lamented his decease. They could no longer point to him and say, "See S. R. Johnston's office and do likewise," as they used to say during Johnston's lifetime. Besides being an art printer *par excellence*, S. R. Johnston was a literary writer of ability. He was a born dialectician. Some of his writings evince genius and inborn astuteness of the highest order. In fact, if he

had turned his energies to *belles-lettres* instead of the perfection of the printing art, he would most probably have become a leading light in literature, as he had become a shining example in his art, in spite of the opinion which he entertained to the time of his death that he had made a mistake in choosing printing as his life-work, because nature had never meant him to be a printer.

JOHN C. RISHER.

JOHN C. RISHER was born in Baldwin Township, Allegheny County, Pa., September 15, 1815. The family is of German descent and his ancestors, as far as known, settled in the Cumberland Valley in or near Chambersburgh, Pa., early in the eighteenth century. His great-grandfather was Daniel Risher, who was born about 1730 and was a playmate of the notorious Simon Girty before the latter turned renegade. He afterward, upon a raid being made by the Indians, warned his old companion, and he in turn warned the settlers and thus saved many lives. In 1755, while yet a young man, Daniel Risher was with Braddock's army on its disastrous attempt to capture Fort Duquesne. He was twice married and raised a large family. He at one time purchased a farm on which the present Cochran station of the P. V. & C. R. R. is now located. He had seen and admired the place while on the Braddock expedition. He only held it a few years. His son, John Risher, afterward settled near White Hall in Baldwin Township, Allegheny County, but later went west, where he died. His son, Daniel Risher, the father of the subject of this sketch, was born June 21, 1792, in Baldwin Township, where he died December 31, 1880. He became the owner of about seven hundred acres of land and did much to develop the resources of the county. He was a miller, and for a time a distiller as was common in earlier days. He was strictly honest in his dealings and aimed to make work of a high grade. His flour commanded a special price and was in high repute even in the Philadelphia market. He was a man of iron will and constitution. He was at first a Jacksonian Democrat, but afterward voted with the Whig and Republican parties. His ancestors were Lutheran, but his first church connection was with the Associate Reformed Church, but later he became a member of the Presbyterian Church. He had several sisters, but only one brother, named John, who settled in Clarion County, where some of his descendants

still reside. His wife was Sarah Cready (German Kräte), who was a thorough German home woman, earnest and devoted in her religious life and faithfully teaching the catechism to her large family of children. She died May 11, 1875, aged eighty-four years and four days. Their son, John C. Risher, was the oldest of a large family, two sons and seven daughters, John C., Maria, Ann, Susan Elizabeth, Sarah, Amanda, Louisa, and Ithamar D. Mr. John C. Risher was married while quite a young man, May 5, 1835, to Miss Nancy Denny McClure, daughter of John McClure, a pioneer of this section and who owned in his lifetime the land on which Homestead now stands, as well as the old city farm and all that occupied by the works of Carnegie, Phipps & Co. Of this union there were five children: the Rev. Levi Risher, minister of the Presbyterian Church, and who married Miss Elmira P., daughter of Major H. Alexander; Agnes M., married to S. S. Crump, of S. S. Crump & Co., coal shippers; Daniel (deceased), who first married Rebecca, daughter of Douthitt H. Gamble, and, after her decease, Miss Annie P. Gladall; Sarah, who was married to the late W. J. Snodgrass, also engaged in the coal business; and John M. Risher, who married Mary J., daughter of Mr. Robert Patterson, of Duquesne, and extensively engaged as a coal operator with works at Coal Bluff and Shireoaks. For many years Mr. John C. Risher was engaged in milling and mercantile business, but about 1853 he engaged in coal mining and shipping at Dravosburgh, which he carried on upon an extensive scale with great industry, intelligence, and success. He attained and held during life the highest business reputation and amassed a large fortune. His wife, Nancy Denny, a lady of piety and many rare home qualities, died on the same day and within four hours of the time in which his own mother passed away, namely, May 11, 1875, in her sixty-seventh year, an event which enlisted the sympathy of the whole region, and multitudes attended their funerals two days later. Mr. Risher some years later married Miss Agnes Whitaker, and of this union was born a son, Arthur.

H. STANLEY GOODWIN.

H. STANLEY GOODWIN, Burgess of South Bethlehem, General Superintendent of the Lehigh Valley Railroad, Eastern Superintendent of the Philadelphia and Reading system, Trustee of Lehigh University, the Bishop Thorpe School, and

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