

AMOS PAUL

In the latter part of the last, and the early part of the present century, there lived in that part of Kittery, Maine, which in 1810 was incorporated as the town of Eliot, a millwright named Nathaniel Paul. He married Mary A. Masters, and early in life removed to Newmarket, N. H. In the latter town his son, Amos Paul, the subject of this sketch, was born April 29, 1810. Amos was the third son of his parents, and until the death of his father, in 1827, he remained at home attending the public schools of his native town. After his father's death he was apprenticed to James Derby, a machinist, in Exeter, N. H., and remained there working at his trade until 1832. He then removed to South Newmarket and worked two years as journeyman in the iron foundry of Drake, Paul & Co. In 1834 in company with George O. Hilton, John B. Rider and Joseph G. Skinner, he bought the works, and organized a corporation under the name of the Newmarket Iron Foundry. Of this corporation Mr. Paul was made president, Mr. Hilton treasurer and manager, and the other two owners with Mr. Paul were chosen directors.

The corporation continued under the management of Mr. Hilton two years, and he was then succeeded by Mr. Paul. The products of the foundry were chiefly castings for cotton and woollen mills, though at one time the manufacture of stoves formed a part of its business. Under the skillful management of Mr. Paul the company was established on a solid and profitable foundation, and though suffering severe losses by fire, its works were at once rebuilt, and continued in its successful career.

In 1846 the Swamscot Machine Company of South Newmarket was incorporated by Mr. Paul, associated with Walter E. Hawes and Seneca C. Kennard, and the management of the affairs of this company was added to his duties as president and manager of the Newmarket Iron Foundry. In 1865 the Swamscot Machine Company bought the works of the foundry company, and, after the consolidation of the two companies, conducted the whole business under its own name. The operations of the company covered the manufacture of stationary and portable steam engines, locomotive and other steam boilers, steam boxes, wrought-iron galvanized pipe, gasfittings and various specialties constructed under patents owned by the company.

The plant of the Swamscot Machine Company was most eligibly situated for a convenient performance of its work. It covered about ten acres of land on both sides of the Boston and Maine Railroad, and was bounded on one side by the navigable waters of the Swamscot river. It would be impossible to find a situation better adapted to the wants of a manufacturing company in the way of transportation facilities. For many years from two hundred and

fifty to three hundred hands were employed, requiring a monthly pay-roll of about \$12,000. A direct result of the operations of the company was the building up of the village of South Newmarket, and the attainment of its chief means of support. Mr. Paul established his residence in the neighborhood of his works, and as the father of the village, looked incessantly and kindly after the interests and welfare of its people. Connected with his homestead was a farm of one hundred and fifty acres, and in the oversight of its careful cultivation he found relief from his business labors and his chief recreation.

The sterling traits of character possessed by Mr. Paul were thoroughly appreciated, not only by his fellow-citizens, but by those beyond the limits of his daily life with whom he had come in contact in his business career. He was a Republican presidential elector in 1868, and many years a director in the Boston and Maine Railroad. An early abolitionist he naturally drifted through the preparatory scenes of Free-Soilism into the Republican party in which he found, not only a congenial anti-slavery sentiment, but also an advocacy of the principles of protection to home industries to which he had always been attached. In religious matters his mind was inclined to the liberal belief in one God and the eventual salvation of all the souls of men. He attended the Universalist Church in South Newmarket, and was always generous in extending to it aid and support.

In the latest years of his life Mr. Paul enjoyed retirement from business cares with a comfort somewhat impaired by the infirmities of age, and died at his home January 31, 1896. His first wife, whom he married December 6, 1836, was Mary A., daughter of Moses Randlett, of Epping, N. H., who was the mother of three children : Mary H., Amos, and Charles R., all of whom are deceased. Mrs. Paul died May 18, 1860. His second wife was Harriet A., daughter of Thomas Randlett, of Newburyport, who died April 13, 1894, leaving two children, now living, Isabel and Harriet.