

SIMEON SNOW, M. D.

BY F. P. MOULTON.

The Hon. Dr. Simeon Snow, of Root, was for many years the principal and most of the time the only physician of the town. He was an eastern man, having been born in Mansfield, Mass., the 18th day of February, 1803. His parents were of English descent. His father, Simeon Snow, at that time and during the war of 1812 was a merchant in the city of Boston; subsequently he became a large manufacturer of nails and ironware. After continuing this business for several years, he retired to a farm, and spent the last years of his life in agricultural pursuits in the town of Savoy, Berkshire county, Mass.

The early life of Dr. Snow was like that of all other boys brought up on a farm: working during the summer all the long, toilsome day, studying at night and attending the district school in the winter, he acquired all that these schools could teach him.

He then, after arriving at his majority, attended Ashfield Academy and obtained an academic education, being particularly proficient in Latin and obtaining a fine knowledge of chemistry. Turning his attention to the study of medicine, he entered the offices, first of Dr. Stacy, of Savoy, and afterwards of Dr. Brayton, of Adams, graduating at the Williams Medical College of Massachusetts, September 3d, 1828. After receiving his diploma, he began to look for a place to practice his profession. Starting for the State of New York, then well on the way towards the great West, he stopped for a short time during the summer of 1829 at Fonda, in this county, and during the month of September following began the practice of his profession at Yatesville, now Randall, in the town of Root, and moved from this place during the year 1834 to Currytown. In the practice of his profession he became intimate in the family of Jacob Dievendorff of Revolutionary memory, a large and wealthy landholder living in Currytown, a few miles south from Yatesville. He married Elizabeth, one of Mr. Dievendorff's daughters, and upon her death married Margaret, another daughter, January 27th, 1836, by whom he had eight children, six sons and two daughters. Of the sons two are successful and extensive farmers in this town; three are located in the city of Albany—one a physician and surgeon in large practice, another a banker, and the third in the lumber business; and one has died. The eldest daughter married Seth Ramsey, who was a prosperous merchant at Argusville until his death, which occurred December 10th, 1872. The younger married Dr. Albert Van Derveer, who, having served as a surgeon during the Rebellion, located in Albany, and now stands at the head of his profession.

Dr. Snow had a large and successful practice, being called frequently in adjacent towns. He was one of the most industrious and faithful of physicians. No matter how fatigued he might be, or how stormy and inclement the night, he was always ready, and visited the poor man's cottage with the same alacrity that he did the mansions of the rich. In his profession, as in



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his business life, he was eminently a cautious and careful practitioner, and although keeping in the very front rank of his profession by persistent study, he never risked rash experiments or hazardous chances; consequently he was unusually successful and acquired a reputation second to no physician's in the county.

From his first settlement in the county his superior education and attainments directed the attention of his neighbors and friends, more or less unlettered, to the importance of securing his services in the public business of the town. He always interested himself in the education of the masses, and for a long time had the supervision of the district schools of the town as commissioner and town superintendent. He also was supervisor of his town, and served in the Senate of the State of New York during the years 1852 and 1853. He was a prominent member of the county and State

medical societies, and was also vice-president of the National Spraker Bank at Canajoharie. In all these various positions of usefulness, trust and honor, in consultation with brother physicians in cases where life and death were fighting for the mastery, his sagacious, wise and practical counsels were always regarded with the greatest respect, and universally followed with safety and success. He was gifted with such rare good common sense, and had so large an experience of men and their measures, that he rarely erred in judging of them or for them. Possessing a large fortune, of real and personal estate, made by his own industry, enhanced by the extensive property received with his wife, he so managed it as to be a blessing to the community in which he lived; no debtor of his was ever disturbed by compulsory process, and whether the debt was large or small, he was one of the most lenient and generous of creditors. He devoted his leisure hours, which were few enough, to overseeing and managing a large farm, and in addition to his other qualifications, was a most scientific and practical agriculturist. Having thus lived a long life of active usefulness, he began to think of retiring from the active duties of his profession. He proposed to travel, and spend the remaining years of his life in rational enjoyment. But "man proposes, God disposes;" at one fell swoop these plans were frustrated, and the fond hopes of his family dashed to the ground. Starting out on the beautiful morning of September 17th, 1865, to make some professional calls, his daughter riding with him, his horse became frightened and ran, dashing him to the ground, striking his head against a stone, and fracturing his skull: living about three days after, he never became conscious, dying at 10 p. m. on the 20th. Thus passed away a good and great man, a kind and loving husband and father, a firm friend, a conscientious and skillful physician, a patriotic and wise statesman. His funeral was attended by a large concourse of his townsmen, and friends from all parts of the county, who mourn him as those only are mourned who live for humanity, and not for themselves.