

ANDREW W. WILSON. One of Pennsylvania's self-made and leading business men, and an intelligent, honored and respected citizen of Indiana, is the gentleman whose name appears at the head of this sketch. For strict integrity, business ability and personal worth, Andrew W. Wilson stands as high as any man in this section of the State. He was born in Brush Valley township, Indiana county, Pennsylvania, July 12, 1826, and is a son of Samuel and Elizabeth (Wilkins) Wilson. His paternal grandfather, Joseph Wilson, was a native of county Antrim, Ireland, where he first saw the light in 1757. He left the land of his birth in 1795 and came to this county, where he patented and improved a tract of land in Brush Valley township. He was one of the first settlers of Dills Valley (now Brush Valley), a weaver by trade and a very intelligent representative Scotch-Irishman. He lived far beyond the allotted span of life, saw three birthdays beyond the century mark and breathed his last when in the one hundred and third year of his ripe old age. Of the four sons who were born to him in the New World, one was Samuel Wilson, (father), who was engaged in farming and school teaching till his death, in 1865, ages sixty-five years. He was a consistent member and useful elder of the United Presbyterian church. His first wife was Elizabeth Wilkins, who was born in the initial year of the present century; was a member of the U. P. church and passed away at the early age of thirty-five years. She was a daughter of Andrew Wilkins, one of the first white children who were born in the territory of Indiana county. He was a farmer, and during the construction of the old Portage R. R. he fed a large number of hands who were working on it, besides supplying many others with meat. He died near Portage, but his remains are interred at Johnstown, Cambria county, Pa.

Andrew W. Wilson was reared on a farm until he was fourteen years of age, when he engaged in farming during the summer months at five dollars per month and his board. He obtained his education by working for his board while he attended school. From fourteen to seventeen years of age he was engaged in teaching school at from \$7.50 to \$18.00 per month. He then became a clerk in the dry-goods house of Sutton & Moore, of Indiana, which position he held for three years, when his employers made him manager of a store at Mechanicsburg, (the firm-name being A. W. Wilson & Co., ) which they stocked with twenty-five hundred dollars' worth of goods. Here for five years he labored persistently against many discouragements, and by hard work, practical economy and strict honesty laid the foundations of a permanent success that has crowned his efforts ever since in the commercial world. In the latter year the Pennsylvania R.R.; located a branch road to Indiana, and Mr. Wilson was recalled to the home house, where he was admitted as an equal partner with John Sutton and intrusted with a large share of its management. The establishment of Sutton & Wilson was known for many miles as the leading house of the county. His business ability and experience were fully equal to the requirements of the situation. For thirty-eight years he has slowly but securely built up a business of extensive proportions. In that time one of his partners died and the other retired from business, and the firm to-day is A. W. Wilson & Son (Harry W. Wilson). The original store is a two-story brick building, 28x65, and was erected in 1858, on the site of the old Peter Sutton log hotel, built in 1806. It is now used as the grocery department of their present establishment, which occupies the site of the old Carpenter mansion on Philadelphia street. It is thirty-three feet front and one hundred and thirteen feet deep. It was erected in 1880 and is three stories in height, built of Philadelphia pressed-brick and the front tastefully timed with Freeport gray sandstone. The font is

largely of fine plate-glass. This dry good house throughout is one of the finest in the State outside of a large city. It affords a large amount of floor space, plenty of light and every convenience for the accommodation and display of their immense stock that has no superior and few equals in any county-seat of the State. The entire establishment is divided into five departments, which are under the charge of experienced and courteous managers. The first department, is used for staple and fancy dry goods and notions; the second is devoted to men's clothing and carpets; the third is filled with blankets and yarns; the fourth or basement story is stocked with oil-cloths and the different kinds of wares, and the fifth comprises the first-store building, which is filled with groceries and contains packing ware-rooms. Mr. Wilson's trade extends over a wide area of territory and his well deserving of the liberal patronage accorded him.

July 7, 1853, he married Anna G. Dick, daughter of James Dick, of this county. The latter was a native of Belfast, Ireland. Their children are; Harry W., in business with his father; Robert D., PhD, who is a professor of Hebrew in the Western Theological seminary; Rev. Samuel G., a missionary in Persia; John L., in business with his father; Prof. Andrew W., one of the proprietors of the Kiskiminetas school for boys; Ella M., a graduate of Vassar college and teacher of Greek at Kiskiminetas school; and Annie E., James D., Jennie P. and Mary A., who are attending school. The four eldest sons are graduates of Princeton.

Politically Mr. Wilson is a prohibitionist and has held several offices of trust and responsibility. He is president of the board of trade, vice-president of the board of Normal school directors and a director of the Western Theological seminary. He has been for over twenty years an influential member and a leading elder of the Indiana Presbyterian church, of whose Sunday-school he has been superintendent for thirteen years. He has given freely of his time and means in the promotion of the religious, benevolent and educational interests of Indiana. Andrew W. Wilson ranks high in that class of men who build their own monuments of fortune and reputation and the gratification of whose highest ambition is attained in being useful to their fellow-men.