

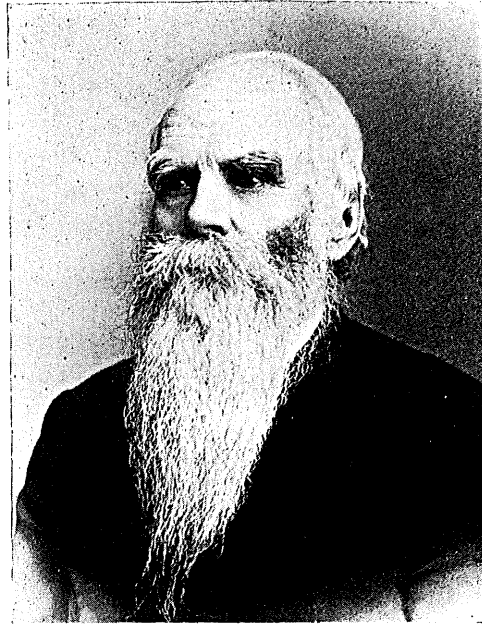
was almost continuously an editor of some kind of a newspaper. During the winter of 1880-81 he attempted something more extended in literary work. His first book was "Atlantis," which received very extended notice and was reprinted in England, and translated and published in France and Germany. More than twenty editions have been printed in different languages. "Ragnarok," followed and achieved almost as wide a reputation as its predecessor, the first edition of five thousand copies was sold in two months. This has also been republished in England. But Donnelly's greatest literary celebrity is due to his "Great Cryptogram," in which he endeavors to establish Bacon's authorship of Shakespeare's plays. In 1889 "Caesar's Column" appeared. Of this book seven hundred thousand copies have been sold, and it has been translated into several languages. It was followed a year or so later by "Dr. Huguet," an appeal to charity written on behalf of the negroes; and this was followed by "The Golden Bottle," which has been extensively printed in England and other countries. It is an attempt to show, by a romance, that the solution of the world's troubles is an abundant supply of money. Mr. Donnelly has never been known to make a statement of his religious views. He has never been a member of any church, but his friends say that his books show the profoundest respect for Christianity and a most unshaken belief in the immortality of the soul. Mr. Donnelly's character is described as a most extraordinary combination of fierce determination, amiability and magnanimity. His remarkable command of language, his oratorical powers, his ready wit, his unflagging industry and undoubted courage, have contributed in their several ways to the development of his most interesting career.

JOHN HARRINGTON STEVENS.

The first settler on the west bank of the Mississippi, on the site of the city of Minneapolis, was Colonel John H. Stevens. Since he came to Minnesota and took up his farm overlooking the Falls of St. Anthony, in 1849, he has been

one of the most conspicuous and interesting figures in Minneapolis affairs. Few men have the privilege of seeing great cities built up on the sites of their modest frontier homesteads. Colonel Stevens has not only seen this, but he has been an active participant in the upbuilding process. Colonel Stevens is a native of Canada, though his parents and ancestors for generations were New England people. He traces his line back to Captain Stevens, who served with honor in King Philip's war during the early colonial times. Gardner Stevens, Colonel Stevens' father, was a native and a citizen of Vermont. He married Deborah Harrington, also of Vermont, who was the only daughter of Dr. John Harrington, who was a surgeon in the colonial army during the revolution. John was their second son. He was born on June 13, 1820. The boy was educated at the common schools in the East, and in the public schools in Wisconsin and Illinois, in which latter state he cast his first vote in 1842. During his early manhood the Mexican war broke out, and Colonel Stevens enlisted and served through the war. For a year or so after the close of the war he remained in Wisconsin and Illinois, and in 1849 came to Minnesota. Upon arriving at the Falls of St. Anthony, Colonel Stevens formed a business partnership with Franklin Steele, who had a store at the little hamlet on the east bank of the river. But the young man saw clearly the advantages of a site on the west bank. This ground was then a military reservation, and repeated attempts to secure permission to settle upon it had been unsuccessful. Colonel Stevens, however, finally secured official leave, and at once took up a farm on the site now covered by the heavy business portion of Minneapolis, and the great flour milling district. The following year he brought a young wife from Illinois to this new farm and established the first home in Minneapolis proper, or the original Minneapolis. For a time Colonel Stevens worked this river-side farm, but it soon became evident that the ground was needed for a town. He was a practical surveyor, and with generous public spirit he platted the land to which he had already become attached, laid out city lots and blocks, and subsequently gave away

many of them to people who would occupy them. From that time on Colonel Stevens was for many years foremost in furthering the interests of the city and state. He took a lively interest in the promotion of immigration and the exploration and settling of the country west of Minneapolis, in those days an almost unbroken wilderness. Many incidents in his long life in the state are of absorbing interest. For several years after he built his house on the river bank it was the center of the life of the young community. A liberal hospitality was dispensed. Immigrants, neighbors, hunters and explorers, and often the Indians themselves, were entertained at that old house. In it churches, societies, lodges and boards were organized. The old building, after being moved from place to place as the city developed, has at last found a resting place, appropriately, near the Falls of Minnehaha, in the beautiful park now belonging to the city, whither it was moved by the school children of Minneapolis in the spring of 1896. Colonel Stevens' love for agriculture and everything pertaining to the farm was of enormous benefit to the young farming community of Minnesota. His influence was felt in the establishment of the agricultural and horticultural associations, and in the promotion of good methods of farming and stock raising. He was the first man to bring thoroughbred stock into the state. After his farm at the Falls was made a city site, he carried on farming at other place, at one time having a large establishment at Glencoe, Minnesota. His lifelong devotion to agriculture was honored by his election to the office of the president of the Minnesota State Agricultural Society. Though never seeking office, Colonel Stevens was in the earlier times called to serve the public in several official capacities. He was the first register of deeds of Hennepin County and served for several terms in both branches of the state legislature. During the Indian uprising, as brigadier general of the militia, he commanded troops and volunteers sent to the front. With all his cares and duties he has during his busy life found time to do a great deal of writing, and has owned a number of papers. Among those which he has conducted or edited were the St. Anthony Express, The



Chronicle, Glencoe Register, Farmer and Gardener, Farmers' Tribune, and Farm, Stock and Home. In 1890 he published a book of personal recollections, entitled, "Personal Recollections of Minnesota and Its People, and Early History of Minneapolis." He also contributed several chapters to the publication known as "Atwater's History of Minneapolis." Colonel Stevens was married on May 1, 1850, to Miss Frances Hellen Miller, a daughter of Abner Miller, of Westmoreland, New York. They were married at Rockford, Illinois. They have had six children. Mary Elizabeth, the first white child born in Minneapolis, died in her seventeenth year. Cathrine D., the second child, is the wife of P. B. Winston. The third daughter, Sarah, is not living. Gardner, the fourth child, and only son, is a civil engineer. Orma, the fifth, is now Mrs. Wm. L. Peck. The sixth, Miss Frances Hellen, is married to Isaac H. Chase, of Rapid City, South Dakota. It is characteristic of Colonel Stevens that, though comfortably off at the present time, he has never made his wonderful opportunities for personal profit a means of amassing wealth. The public spirit and broad generosity of the man have made such a course practically impossible for him.