

cultivated for a number of years his deceased father's farm near the village of Ames, so named in honor of Fisher Ames, one of the first settlers of that part of Montgomery County. The Free-Will Baptist Society, organized in 1794, built in 1832, a new house of worship in the village, the earlier one having been erected about a mile east of it. The society was reorganized that year, and called the Ames Free Baptist Church, of which Simon Kittle was then one of its six trustees.

The homestead farm, near Ames, adjoined that of the Hon. Seth Wetmore, of Winchester, Litchfield County, Connecticut, who had settled, in 1805, in that part of Montgomery County.¹ The social intercourse of the two families led to the marriage of Simon Kittle and Lucy Elizabeth, the only daughter of Seth and Lucy Doolittle Wetmore. Their eldest son, George Wetmore Kittelle, born at Ames, on September 18, 1827, engaged, when still a young man, in merchandising, and later in the manufacture of cotton goods, owning extensive mills at Avon, Connecticut; Pittstown Four Corners, in Rensselaer County, and Fonda, Montgomery County, New York. After an active business career of fifty-seven



SIMON KITTLE.

years, he withdrew from its cares and anxieties, and now resides in the city of New York. On January 25, 1866, he was married at the Church of the Incarnation, in New York city, to Marie Louise, daughter of Nathan Deyo and Elizabeth Wolfe Geer, a descendant of a family of Devonshire gentry, in England. One of its members, George Geer, settled at New London, Connecticut, in 1651. Her great-grandfather, Captain Rezin Geer, was killed and scalped in the massacre in Wyoming Valley, on July 3, 1778, on the site of which a monument has been erected to his memory.

Sumner Ely Wetmore Kittelle, their only child, was born, on June 14, 1867, on his father's farm, adjoining that of the late Rev. Henry Ward Beecher, at Peekskill, on the Hudson. A general education was acquired by him at different schools in the city of New York. His mental and physical qualifications

¹ Seth, the son of John and Elizabeth Leming Wetmore, born in Torrington, Connecticut, on March 20, 1761, married, on December 9, 1779, Lois, daughter of Colonel Ozias Bronson, of Winchester. Their children were: Seth, Abigail, Artemisia, Alphonzo, Salmon Bronson, Pythagoris, and Lois Malinda. He married second Lucy Doolittle, by whom he had Lucy Elizabeth and George Clinton. He was one of the first and leading democrats of Litchfield County, and was three times a member of the Connecticut legislature. He held the office of magistrate, sheriff (1821-25), and judge in Montgomery County. He died at Corners Village, on April 16, 1836. The coat of arms of the Wetmore family is a shield argent, on a chief azure, three martlets or. Crest: a falcon proper. Motto: *Tentanda via est.*