

John H. Starin was born and passed his childhood. He was taught by his surroundings that exclusiveness is not one of the marks of distinction. He learned in infancy that no man in this country is born better than another, that the most exalted in the land may learn many a useful lesson from the humblest. He has never forgotten these truths. Indeed his life has been a striking exemplification of them. He has never forgotten his native Mohawk hills. He went from them a poor young man. He returned to them with wealth beyond his wildest dreams. He remained in them to spend that wealth among the people who knew him when he was poor. He has no false pride. He is proud of his early struggles. He is a typical American. So believing, and believing further that to honor this type is the purpose of this meeting, I accept, in the name of the sweet lady, true wife and fond mother, whose gentle influence has done so much to make John H. Starin what he is; in her name and upon behalf of our family I accept this magnificent work of art.

"Let it stand as an evidence of the fact that so long as our glorious flag shall fly the highest honors in this land are open to the poorest boy. Let it stand as a monument to brains, pluck and work. Let it stand a monument to open-handed generosity and kindness of heart. And when the time shall come — may it be far distant, O ye powers above — when the time shall come for its original to go to his fathers; then, when all jealousy, all envy shall have been buried under the flowers of appreciation and love, let those who look upon it say, as well they may: This is the statue of a man who won great distinction through great trial; this is the statue of a man who always had a helping hand for the needy and the poor; this is the statue of a man who, even in the hour of his greatest triumph, was always ready to welcome and greet the humblest friend of his youth; this is the statue of John Henry Starin."

Among the numerous telegrams and letters which were received in connection with the unveiling, the following are of special interest. The United States Senator for the State of New York sent this telegram:

"SYRACUSE, *October 6, 1890.*

"TO THE HON. HOWARD CARROLL, NEW YORK:

"I regret exceedingly that I cannot unite with Messrs. Root, Erhardt and others in unveiling the statue of Mr. Starin, and in other ways showing our friendship and respect for him at Starin