

Nathaniel¹³²⁸ was the eldest son. He was resolute and energetic from early childhood, and like other farmer boys of his time, he early learned to work, with little interruption except when the district school was in session, and work soon took the place of the summer term. Before he was fifteen, a severe fit of sickness left him unable to endure farm work, and it became necessary to utilize his abilities in some other field. After some time spent in study, and three years in a country store, he accepted the offer of a clerkship at Charleston, S. C. He was then about 19 years of age, and remained there about twenty years. By close application, and persistent energy, he by degrees gained a position at the head of the house, the establishment becoming known as "Hayden Store, the handsomest one in the United States. Jewelry and military goods." In 1842, he turned over his interest in the concern to his two brothers, who had previously joined him, and returned to Haydens, intending to devote the remainder of his life to the interests of the old home, with his mother and sisters, and his motherless boy of 4 years old (his own father¹³³ having died three years before). With the usual success of business men, who in middle life try to find scope for their activities in retirement, he, after two or three years of farm life, again returned to business, this time in New York. In 1858, he was elected President of Chatham Bank, New York, which position he held fifteen years. The bank under his administration was very successful, the value of its stock increasing one hundred per cent. He retired because of failing health, and returned to the old home to die. He was well read in the political history of his country, and had decided political convictions, but mingled little in partisan politics, and never held political office. He was an active member of the Union Party of South Carolina (1832), during the time of Nullification, and then, and ever after, thought it an evil day when the "Compromise Measures" left for future settlement the issues then pending, and when those issues developed in rebellion, nearly thirty years later, he became an active and enthusiastic member of the Union League of New York, and was among the foremost of the New York bank presidents to urge the policy of supplying the government with any amount of money needed to maintain its supremacy — even to the verge of bankruptcy for all the banks at the north.