

MAJOR JOSEPH P.⁸ DUDLEY.

(*Samuel,¹ Joseph,⁶ Joseph,⁵ James,⁴ Stephen,³ Rev. Samuel,²
Gov. Thomas.¹)*

One of the most genial, popular, and well-known gentlemen in the city of Buffalo, is Major Joseph P. Dudley, of the Star Oil Company. He has lived in Buffalo so many years that he ranks among the old settlers; and not to know him is really a misfortune to any one. He was born among the granite hills of New Hampshire, at Candia, Rockingham County, about fifty years ago, and ever since that interesting epoch he has been busy. His father was Deacon Samuel Dudley, a sturdy pioneer, who was noted for his sound business principles, his thrifty habits, and sterling integrity, and an unswerving desire to render unto every one equal and exact justice. Deacon Dudley was a tanner, a shoe manufacturer, and the proprietor of a general country store, and it was in the nature of things that his son should follow, at least for a while, in the footsteps of his father. He learned the art of tanning in more ways than one, presumably, and in time his early business education had reached that state of perfection which enabled him to go out into the world and "hustle" for himself. Incidentally to the sale of supplies for man and beast, Mr. Dudley had attended the common schools as a youngster, and graduated later from the Pembroke Academy near his native village. While a young man he became a member of the staff of General Sauborn, with the rank of Major, a title by which he is known far and near.

In 1858 Major Dudley turned his face toward the Occident, but Buffalo was good enough for him, and here he has remained ever since. His first business venture here was in an iron foundry, and for three years he gave it his undivided attention, and then sold it out for the purpose of embarking in the oil business, which in 1861 was just becoming one of the greatest attractions of the time. As a result, the Empire Oil Works began doing business, and Dudley & Co. were the proprietors. They were extensive producers, with refineries in Buffalo, and later a branch at Miller Farm, Pa. Under Major Dudley's energetic and skilful management the Empire Oil Works made a great deal of money, which continued until 1877, when the Empire Works and the Star Oil Company were consolidated, the whole business being conducted under the name of the Star Oil Company, one of the most successful branches of the Standard Oil Company. Ever since the consolidation Major Dudley has been at the head of the Star Company, and in such capacity has had the exclusive management of a vast business, extending through New York State, New England, and the Canadas. This great company does millions of