

general merchandise; also, opened a coal yard and iron store, continuing the latter business for twenty-five years. He was the first town superintendent of schools, and had practical charge of the public schools of Ellenville for more than forty years, being president of the Board of Education almost consecutively from its organization. In politics Mr. Dudley was originally a whig, and was a delegate to the first republican convention held in New York State, at Saratoga Springs in 1854. The year following he was elected to the assembly by the republicans and temperance men of the second district of Ulster Co. He was postmaster at Ellenville for six years, and in 1869 inaugurated the movement which brought about the organization of the Ellenville Savings Bank. He became its first secretary and treasurer, holding these positions to the time of his death. During the latter years of his life Mr. Dudley became a prohibitionist, wrote and spoke extensively for the cause, and in 1875 was that party's candidate for state engineer and surveyor.

In the many positions of trust held by Mr. Dudley during his active career, his integrity and honor were never questioned. He was orderly, prompt and methodical to the extreme in business matters, and successful in all he undertook. He took pride in saying that he had never had a note protested, and that no one had ever lost a dollar by him; yet though prudent and saving he was noted for his generosity in all directions, both in public and private charity, being a cheerful giver. No man contributed more liberally of his time and money to a cause he thought would benefit mankind.

A man of marked character, possessing an acute and active mind, Mr. Dudley was firm and even positive in his opinions, and, having the courage of his convictions, lived faithfully and conscientiously according to what he believed to be right. Though a profound thinker, he was yet ever charitable to the views of others, and seemed to enjoy association with those of opposite opinions. The cause of education was one of intense interest to him, and with all his heart he entered into its service. The public schools of Ellenville are a monument to his efficient zeal in this direction, and many an anxious teacher and perplexed pupil will bear testimony to his ever ready sympathy and stimulating advice. Upon the occasion of his funeral the schools were closed, and teacher and pupils passed in mournful procession beside his coffin, placing upon it a sprig of evergreen or a flower. Always gentle and patient, his counsel was freely sought and as freely given, and generally followed by those seeking aid in any direction. His command of himself was wonderful, and those who had known him intimately for more than fifty years never heard him utter an indecorous word or give expression to an impure thought.