



SIDNEY DILLON.

Among the men of progress in America there will be found no name more distinctly representative or more thoroughly in unison with the spirit of the age, than that of Mr. Sidney Dillon, President of the Union Pacific railroad. Born in Northampton, Montgomery county, New York, on the 7th of May, 1812, at which place his father was a well-to-do farmer, he came of sterling stock—his grandfather having been a Revolutionary soldier.

From early childhood his life has been an active one, given almost wholly to the advancement of the internal improvements of his country. When a mere lad, he commenced his railroad life as an errand boy, on the Mohawk & Hudson railroad—the *first* railroad built in his native State—running from Albany to Schenectady. (See ANNEX No. 7.) He next entered the service of the Rensselaer & Saratoga—then we hear of him as overseer of a contract on the Boston & Providence, and several other roads. In 1838, he took his first contract, and completed it with profit in 1840, from which time his contracts have been very numerous. Among

these was "Clay Hill," two miles from West Troy, on the Troy & Schenectady railroad. Mr. Dillon next built twenty-six miles of the Hartford & Springfield, six miles of the Cheshier, and ten miles on the Vermont & Massachusetts. Besides the above, he has been engaged in the construction of the Rutland & Burlington; Central, of New Jersey; the Morris canal; the Boston & New York Central; the Philadelphia & Erie; the Erie & Cleveland; the Morris & Essex; the Boston, Hartford & Erie; the Iowa; the New Orleans, Mobile & Chattanooga, the Canada Southern; the Union Pacific, and many others. The last great work upon which Mr. Dillon has been engaged is the "Fourth Avenue improvement," New York. The contract involves \$7,000,000, and is a work of great magnitude. Suffice it to say, that he has been engaged in over forty of the leading public works of America, and that the contracts with which he has been engaged have amounted to over \$100,000,000. The career of Mr. Dillon teaches the lesson, that, at the hands of a man thoroughly