Dr. Lydia Sayer Hasbrouck, wife of John W. Hasbrouck, was born Dec. 29, 1827, in the town of Warwick, Orange Co., N. Y., at the old stone residence of her father, between that village and Bellvale. She is the daughter of Benjamin Sayer and Rebecca Forshee. (See sketch of Benjamin Sayer for her patrernal ancestry.) Her mother was the daughter of Cornelius Forshee and Elizabeth Cole. A history of the Cole family (compiled by Rev. David Cole, D.D., of Yonkers) states that the Cole ancestors first came to America from Holland about the year 1625. The Forshee record is not so definite, though from the same source we learn that the family came to this country not far from 1700. They fled from religious persecution in France, where they left valuable estates. The first ancestor lived to be one hundred and ten years old.

Lydia Sayer was noted from childhood for her fearless spirit and independence of character. She inherited her father's temperament and features in a marked degree, as he had inherited like characteristics from his mother.

Lydia always enjoyed her father's favor and confidence in an especial manner, and he frequently remarked that he had no fears but she could take care of herself.

Reared amidst the charming scenery for which the "fair vale of Warwick" has so long been noted, Lydia enjoyed to the fullest extent all the varied beauties by which she was daily surrounded. None loved the freedom of the mountains, streams, and fields more than she; and in riding or driving spirited horses, or in active pursuits of any kind, none could do so with keener zest or enjoyment. She had the reputation of being the smartest scholar of her classes,—but terribly independent and self-reliant,—and was given the best opportunities the district and high schools of Warwick at this time afforded.

As she grew to womanhood her father's house was a great resort for friends and visitors. Miss Lydia was the life and centre of these gatherings, and a favorite with all, both young and old. She made golden Orange County butter and snow-white loaves of bread. She spun flax and wool for family use and to enrich and quilted would make a fashionable young lady of the present day faint with sheer exhaustion to contemplate. In fine, she prided herself in knowing how to do everything in connection with the work of a well-regulated, hospitable house.

When a reform dress for women was first brought into notice in 1849, under the name of Camille costume, Turkish dress, etc., she early espoused and adopted it. Mrs. Bloomer, who was editing the Lily at Seneca Falls, wore and recommended the dress, and forthwith it was styled "Bloomer Dress," notwithstanding Mrs. Bloomer always protested she neither originated or was the first to wear it. This dress, worn simply as a physiological costume, has subjected its wearers to much personal slight and social ostracism, and all because of its not conforming to prescribed fashions that are constantly changing. In this connection it is worthy of mention, that when first adopted it was thought the wearing of it would become more general, as for a time the Philadelphia magazines placed it among their monthly fashion plates.

Mrs. Hasbrouck desires the fact put on record that she was once refused admission to the Seward Seminary, at Florida, simply because she wore the dress. A faculty meeting was called solely to take the cut of her dress into consideration. The trustees, knowing her and her family, expressed the highest esteem for her varied gifts and graces, and the pleasure they would feel in having her an inmate of the school if she would only dress in harmony with fashion. She says,—

"Up to this time I loved the physical freedom of my dress. I had thought but little of woman's political freedom or her unequal rights before the law. I had never suffered from them, and enjoyed too many other privileges to feel their lack. The chances are, if I had but been persecuted I would have returned to fashion's requirements. But my every sense of right and justice was outraged. I knew I was doing that which should have met with approval, because it was to better the physical woman, then weighed down with bangles and heavy underskirts. As I went out from the interview with that committee, I was kindly shown to the lady principal into her private room. I fairly bathed my soul in an agony of tears and silent prayers for a knowledge of the right and guidance therein. Remember, I was too young, and had often heard it was not dress that made the man; but was own bitterly learning that it was the principal part of the woman. This treatment anchored me into the ranks of women's rights advocates, and as I left that house I registered a vow that I would stand or fall in the battle for woman's physical, political, and educational freedom and equality. I felt that if there ever had been a principle that justified men and women going to the stake and flagger rather than renounce it, that principle was now mine to defend; and come what might, I would stand true to its requirements."

Few know what that vow has cost her unswerving yet sensitive spirit; but what many do know is, that she has never faltered, never yielded in what she believed was her duty and right.

The reform dress was adopted by many for its physical freedom, and especially by lady physicians and invalids at hygienic institutes as an aid to health and comfort. The question of woman's rights was then in its infancy, and meeting all sorts of ridicule from pulpit and legislatures. Several of the prominent women in the cause adopted the dress; but when the cry of "strong-minded," "masculine," and other like epithets were hurled at the wearers whenever they appeared in public, most of them succumbed to the mob spirit. Miss Sayer refused to yield her right to dress in a sensible manner, and said if woman's purity and character hung on the last few inches of her swabbing skirts, she wanted none of it, but would win a character for herself above the filth of the streets. She was more or less persecuted and defamed, but, knowing her motives were just and pure she moved steadily forward.

At this stage of her life, Miss Sayer determined to fit herself for some more extended sphere of action,
Lydia Sayre Hasbrouck
JOHN WHITBECK HASBROUCK was born in Woodstock, Ulster Co., N. Y., Nov. 20, 1821. He was the ninth of a family of ten children born to Richard M. Hasbrouck and Mary Johnson. His grandfather, Capt. Elias Hasbrouck, was in active service during the war of the Revolution, and, under Gen. Montgomery, took part in the northern campaign that ended in the storming of Quebec and death of Montgomery. He named his son, born the following year, Richard Montgomery. A deed for fifty acres of land in Northern Ulster, together with a gold ring which she placed upon his finger, were given by Janet Montgomery to the young namesake of her hero husband. The deed and ring are still in the possession of his descendants. Capt. Elias Hasbrouck lost heavily by the destruction of his store and property when Kingston was burned by the British.

The father of the subject of this sketch, Richard M. Hasbrouck, lived to the age of eighty-four years, and always bore a name proverbial for integrity and uprightness of character. His mother, Mary Johnson, was nearly related to the Vanderbilt family, and was a woman of pious and exemplary character.

John W. Hasbrouck is a descendant in the sixth generation from Abraham Hasbrouck, who, with his brother Jean, Walloons from the northern part of France, fled from their native country not long before the revocation of the edict of Nantes. Jean, or John, went with many other Protestants to Manheim, in the Palatinate, before he came to America. Abraham, in 1675, came direct to this country, passing through Calais to England and then to Boston, en route for Esopus (Kingston), where several French Protestants had already arrived. Two years later Abraham and Jean, together with eleven other Frenchmen living at Kingston, took up the Palatz Patent, and established the settlement there. Abraham became conspicuous both in the civil and ecclesiastical affairs of that early period. His family continued their residence there until about the middle of the next century, when they removed to Kingston. His descendants are wonderfully numerous throughout Ulster County, and among them many who were and still are distinguished both in the walks of public and private life. The name has been written variously Hasbrouck, Hasbroucq, Hasbrouque, Asbrouck, and Von Asbroeck. In the fourteenth century Charles V. granted a patent of nobility to the family. Its cote d'armes, or coat of arms, is represented by an emblazoned shield, surmounted by a male figure, holding in one hand an arrow and in the other a torch, while on a scroll beneath the shield is the legend, "Dieu sauve Von Asbroeck." Mr. Hasbrouck has a representation of this insignia now in his possession. A steel rapier, bearing date 1414, that was brought by the family from France, still belongs to one of its descendants.
John W. Hasbrouck, the subject of this sketch, removed with his father's family from Woodstock to Kingston about the year 1834, and completed his school days at the celebrated Kingston Academy. During the four years following he became a clerk in stores in that village, when he entered the Ulster County Bank as clerk and book-keeper, continuing in this occupation for the next three years. After a summer spent in New York, in a wholesale crockery house as book-keeper, he came back to Kingston in the fall of 1845, and entered upon his future career in the profession of journalism. Previous to this, however, he had been a frequent contributor to the several papers of the village, writing essays, sketches, and discussing political questions during the exciting political contests of 1840 and 1844.

Accepting a position on the Kingston Journal, during the winter of 1845 he found time, with his other duties, to compile a history of the press of Ulster County up to that period, which was published in the journal on which he was then engaged. About this time, also, he took great interest in the Kingston Lyceum and Literary Association, both of which he was instrumental in forming. In the debates, lectures, and other exercises he took a prominent part; and while secretary of the latter he had the honor to invite Horace Greeley to lecture before its members, which was the first effort of the kind of that noted journalist and lecturer. His theme was "Human Life."

In the spring of 1846, Mr. Hasbrouck purchased the Sullivan Whig establishment at Bloomingburgh, in that county. He here commenced to learn the practical part of the "art preservative," and, without any previous knowledge of the printer's trade, set up in type two columns of the first paper he issued. The county had long been Democratic, but thereafter he was nominated by the Whig party of Sullivan as their candidate for member of Assembly, filling an election, with the rest of his ticket, by only one hundred and twenty-eight in a poll of three thousand five hundred and fifty-six.

About this time two opportunities occurred to induce him to change his location. One was to take charge of a weekly journal at Corning, on the Erie road, at the solicitation of Hon. A. B. Dickenson, and the other to establish and edit a daily administration paper in the city of Milwaukee, Wis. Stopping over at Corning long enough to look over the ground, and not thinking favorably of the opening, he pursued his way westward to the Badger State. This project, also, not being acceptable to him, he returned East to accept from the late Com. Vanderbilt the position of agent at San Juan (Nicaragua) for his line of California steamers; but sickness just at this time compelled him to forgo his purpose.

In the fall of 1851, being strongly urged to come to Middletown and start a newspaper to meet the local and business wants of the village, he determined to do so. The village then contained a population of only fifteen hundred. The first number of the Whig Press—the name chosen for his new venture—was issued Nov. 26, 1851. The Press was published weekly, and soon secured, by its satisfactory management, a remunerative support and circulation, and, by his assiduous efforts, its proprietor built up a business second to few other country offices in the State. He was the first in this section to introduce the practice of giving a full and accurate compend of local intelligence from all parts of the county, always being careful, however, to exercise a discriminating judgment as to its public importance.

In 1854, being recommended to ex-Governor Hunt as a suitable person to conduct a daily journal at Lockport, in this State, he visited that gentleman at his home in Niagara County, the better to determine the matter, but concluded not to accept of the position, notwithstanding liberal offers were made him to do so.

In addition to publishing the Press, he also issued from its office, for the editors or proprietors, several other publications at different periods. Among these were the Hardwareman's Newspaper, in 1855, published monthly for some three years. Its name was afterwards changed to the Iron Age, and is still published in New York by a son of its former proprietor, he having learned the printer's trade under Mr. Hasbrouck. In 1856 he also published The Stylus, a semi-monthly quarto, edited by Mrs. Hasbrouck, which was continued for eight years.

July 27, 1856, he was married to Miss Dr. Lydia Sayer, a lady of varied attainments and culture. Their married life, though not eventful, has glided along harmoniously, and during the present year has reached its silvered stage in the onward march of time. (See sketch of Dr. Lydia Sayer Hasbrouck.)

In 1866 he changed the name of his paper to The Orange County Press, the name which it still bears; but feeling the need of rest he sold, in 1868, the establishment to Mr. M. D. Stivers, and during the following thirteen years kept out of newspaper work altogether; but during the present year has again resumed business by publishing, in connection with Mrs. Hasbrouck, a reform paper called the Liberal Sentinel. It is done to meet an unsupplied local want in the progressive thought of the age.

Of Mr. Hasbrouck it can be truly said, that during his entire newspaper life his practice has ever been to do as well as he was capable of doing whatever he undertook; requiring, also, the same care and effort from those who served under him. He has the satisfaction of knowing, therefore (and points with no little pride to the fact), that among his former apprentices many have become successful printers and publishers, while several at the present time occupy responsible positions in the editorial ranks.
and spent several years in study at the Elmira High School and Central College, finally graduating at the Hygeia Therapeutic College in New York City. During vacations she also lectured and wrote considerably for the newspapers, striving in every way to fit herself for public work.

In September, 1853, Miss Sayer was a delegate to the Whole World’s Temperance Convention, held in Metropolitan Hall, New York City. The Tribune thus summed up the work of that convention:

"First day—Crowing a woman off the platform (Rev. Antoinette L. Brown). Second day—Gegging her. Third day—Voting that she shall stay gagged. In fact, so determined were men at this time that women should not speak from public platforms, they acted like rowdies. Even Rev. John Chambers, of Philadelphia, stamped his feet, thumped his chair, and pointed his finger, saying, 'Shame on the woman!'"

The first year of Miss Sayer's practice was in Washington, D.C., where she was well received by both press and people, lecturing by invitation in Washington, Annapolis, Georgetown, Baltimore, Philadelphia, etc., writing for papers, as well as familiarizing herself with our national legislation. She speaks of this period of her life as most profitable and enjoyable.

While lecturing she received many flattering newspaper notices, and an invitation to make a lecturing tour of the States. The editors of the principal dailies in Washington invited her to use their columns to introduce or defend any principle she desired.—Major Ben Perley Poore, then local editor of the Star, bringing her the message from that paper. Both her writings and discussions were well received, and made so much of a sensation that the newsboys cried their papers through the streets as containing her articles. She enjoyed the personal friendship of Prof. Henry, of the Smithsonian Institution, Mr. Giddings, then the father of the House, and many other noted and liberal men and women. The president of the Allopathic College recognized her as a physician by inviting her to attend any of the college lectures and clinics she chose, while a retired physician brought her many patients, and offered to start a large health institution if she would take charge of it. She says before going to Washington she was warned that her dress would damage her prospects, but she found it introduced her to all kinds of pleasant people and to personal attention in the best society, and regrets ever leaving a city so full of pleasant memories and associations.

In 1856, at the earnest solicitation of the then editor of the Press, at Middletown, she came North on a lecturing tour, and on her arrival at that village lectured most acceptably in Gothic Hall to the largest audience ever assembled there. She also spoke at several neighboring places. Her return to Orange County, as stated, was to end in assuming the editorial duties of a semi-monthly reform paper called The Sibyl, and to join her life-work with John W. Hashbrouck. They were married July 27, 1856, and have had three children,—Daisy, Sayer, and Burt, the last two yet living.

Mrs. Hashbrouck edited The Sibyl for eight years, at the same time practicing her profession and attending patients both at her home on Sibyl Ridge* and outside. But at length finding the quadruple duties of editor, physician, mother, and housekeeper too arduous, she was forced to rest. After this, until 1868, she assisted on and wrote for the Press until it changed ownership. Since then, until the present year, though writing considerably for the papers, fighting corruption in public officials and denouncing high and unjust taxation, she has not been engaged in responsible newspaper work.

During 1864 and 1865, Mrs. Hashbrouck was president of the National Dress Reform Association. In 1864 its annual convention was held in Middletown. A large number of women wearing the reform dress were present, and Gothic Hall was packed with attentive listeners.

In 1880 the New York Legislature passed a law allowing women to vote for and hold school offices. The act was passed February 12th. On March 9th the election for school officers occurred in Middletown. Mrs. Hashbrouck wrote an article for the Press calling on the "men of Middletown to show by their action they were honest enough to give the law a fair trial and practical test." The Republicans refused to do this, but the Equal Rights element united with the Temperance and Democratic vote, and elected five women as members of the board of education,—Lydia Sayer Hashbrouck being one of the number.

It being the first election in the State where women had been chosen to this office, immediately the New York journals despatched interviewing reporters to Middletown to learn the situation and facts, and to spread them far and near to their readers.—Mrs. Hashbrouck being always the prominent figure in their articles. Naturally, the old members were greatly displeased with the result of the election, but Mrs. Hashbrouck has stood firmly in defense of such reforms as she believed the majority of the taxpayers and people desired. This not suiting "the ring," they managed in the spring of 1881 to have the editors of both local journals for members of the board of education, when they refused to admit in their papers a word in favor of woman as a worker in the schools. They had long been conservative on the subject of temperance and other reforms, hence the starting of the Liberal Sentinel by John W. and Lydia Sayer Hashbrouck,—an independent weekly quarto paper, open to the discussion of all topics that tend to make humanity better and healthier.

Since her marriage her husband has been a most efficient aid, having always sustained and assisted her in the carrying out of her principles, and no influence has shaken his faithful allegiance to her. For twenty-five years they have been true to their principles and

* A charming locality on high ground in the northern part of the village, where, in 1857, she built an octagon stone house in a two-acre clover-field for their future home, now surrounded by a wealth of shrubbery, fruit, and flowers, all planted and cultivated by her own hands.
troth, and though six-foot boys call them mother and father they are yet workers in the field, fighting wrong and battling for the right.

Mrs. Hasbrouck has always been an energetic business woman, with remarkable executive and go-ahead capabilities. Her transactions have been confined mostly to real estate, and at present she is engaged in building a large block of stores and offices on the best business street in Middletown. In it the Sentinel is expected to have new quarters and to be issued oftener, the better to accommodate the wants of this flourishing town.

Moses Dunning Stivers was born near Beemerville, in the township of Wantage, Sussex Co., N. J., on the 30th day of December, 1828.

His father, John Stivers, was born in Middlesex Co., N. J., Oct. 3, 1802, and his grandfather, Randal Stivers, was also a native of the same county. The latter removed to Sussex County in the early part of the present century, and settled in the township of Frankford.

His mother, Margaret Dunning Stivers, who is still living and remarkably sprightly and active at the advanced age of seventy-eight years, was born near Scotchtown, Orange Co., N. Y., July 1, 1808. Her father and mother, Jonathan and Rachel Crabbs Dunning, removed to Sussex Co., N. J., and settled in the township of Wantage about 1806. Mr. Dunning served as a private soldier in the American army in the war of 1812. John Stivers and Margaret Dunning were married March 22, 1828, and settled upon a farm near Beemerville, N. J., where all their three children—Moses D., Randal, and Jesse L.—were born. In 1845 the family removed to Ridgebury, Orange Co., Mr. Stivers having purchased the old Deacon Hallock farm. The father died here on the 21st of February, 1865. His widow and son, Randal, still continue to reside upon the place.

The youngest son, Jesse Lewis Stivers, enlisted in Company B, Fifty-sixth Regiment New York Volunteers, known as the "Tenth Legion," which was raised and commanded by Col. (now Gen.) Charles H. Van Wyck, then representing the Tenth District (Orange and Sullivan Counties) in Congress, now United States senator from the State of Nebraska. Although a mere stripling of slight build and not strong and robust, Jesse participated in several campaigns and battles, among them the campaign in front of Richmond, and was wounded in the battle of Fair Oaks. The regiment was afterwards stationed at Yorktown, and subsequently for some time on Morris Island, S. C. After three years' service, young Stivers re-enlisted with his regiment for another three years. He was subsequently promoted to second lieutenant of his company. Ill health and physical debility, growing out of the hardships of the service, compelled him to resign his commission in the spring of 1865, when he received an honorable discharge.

For a time he was associated with his brother in the ownership of the Orange County Press. He died suddenly from heart-disease, in New York City, April 30, 1871, at the age of thirty years.

The subject of our sketch, Moses D. Stivers, whose likeness is given herewith, after attending the common schools in his neighborhood, was in his fourteenth year sent to the then well and widely known select school kept by Edward A. Stiles, now deceased, located near the Clove church, in the township of Wantage, Sussex Co., N. J., afterwards known as Mount Retirement Seminary. He spent two and a half years at this school, and afterwards attended a term at a select school at Beemerville, N. J., and also the academy at Ridgebury, N. Y. After leaving school he worked upon his father's farm in the summer seasons, and during the winters, for the next ten years, engaged in teaching at various places in Sussex and Orange Counties.

He was married, Sept. 26, 1855, to Mary Elizabeth Stewart, second daughter of Mr. Lewis Stewart, of the town of Wawayanda, Orange Co., N. Y. Five children have been the fruit of this marriage, viz.: Mary Ellen (wife of Mr. Edwin T. Hanford, of Middletown), Louis Stewart, John Dunning, Cristina Stewart, and Moses Ashby.

For two years after his marriage he kept a country store at Ridgebury. In 1859 he removed to Middletown, where he has since resided, with the exception of three years at Goshen. In the spring of that year he entered into partnership with Mr. William Evans in the mercantile business, under the firm-name of Evans & Stivers, which they carried on upon Main Street for some five years. Mr. Evans then sold his interest to Messrs. Harvey and John A. Wallace, and the business was continued under the firm-name of Stivers & Wallace until after the election of Mr. Stivers to the office of county clerk in the fall of 1864.

In March, 1868, after the expiration of his term of office as county clerk, Mr. Stivers purchased from Mr. John W. Hasbrouck the printing-office and weekly newspaper, The Orange County Press, which the latter had founded. Although with no practical knowledge of the printing business, and without any experience as a journalist, except as an occasional contributor to the newspaper press, Mr. Stivers at once met with remarkable success in his new vocation. The paper was enlarged, and in various ways improved; and from a feeble circulation of a few hundred copies it speedily ran up in a few months, until it equalled, if not surpassed, the circulation of any weekly journal in the county.

He associated his brother Jesse with him for a few months, and afterwards, in December, 1869, formed a partnership with Albert Kessinger, of Rome, N. Y., a mere youth, who had not then attained his majority, but who possessed intellectual and business qualities far beyond his years. This association continued until the unfortunate mental disability and death of Mr. Kessinger, which latter occurred Aug. 5, 1872.