

AUSTIN P. BALDWIN

ENGLISH blood mingled with that of the Dutch founders of New Netherland produced the race to which New York owes much of its preëminence in the country at large. The same strain has also been dominant from the outset in the city's social organization. Furthermore, each generation of this typical New York stock attracts to and reinforces itself with the best elements from every part of the land.

A striking and pertinent example of these interesting facts is furnished by the history of the Baldwin family. The name has long been familiar alike in the history of New York and that of Connecticut, many of its bearers having been prominent in Colonial, as well as in later days, in both political life and in professional and commercial pursuits. The New York branch of the family was, at the beginning of the present century, well represented by Enos Baldwin, who married Mary Parker, a native of Cavendish, Vt. Their son, Austin Baldwin, the first of that name, born in Albany, N. Y., became an eminent merchant in that city and a leader in politics. He was an adherent of the old Whig party and an associate of Henry Clay and the other leading men of the same political faith. He became a prominent figure in the higher councils of his party, frequently held office, was appointed to a position of national responsibility by President William Henry Harrison, and also served in the Assembly, becoming its Speaker.

In 1829, he married Julia Clarissa Huyck, daughter of Colonel John Van Heusen Huyck and his wife, Clara (Radcliffe) Huyck. She was born at Rhinebeck, N. Y., and descended on both sides from the oldest and most influential families of Colonial antecedents in the river counties of the State, her near relatives including such prominent names as Radcliffe, Van Ness, Dewitt, Van Hovenburg, Kip, Van Wagener, Van Heusen, Hogeboom and Schermerhorn. Her mother was a daughter of General William Radcliffe, an officer of the Revolutionary Army. One of her brothers was Jacob Radcliffe, who became a Judge of the Supreme Court of New York, and was Mayor of the City of New York for two terms, in 1810-11 and again in 1815-18, and was one of the leading figures in the political life of his day in New York. Another brother was Peter W. Radcliff, who was also a distinguished lawyer and active in politics, being a State Senator and Judge of the King's County Court. Few among the early settlers of this State held a more distinguished position or were more useful and patriotic citizens than the Radcliffs, descended from Joachim Radcliffe, one of the earliest settlers.

Mr. Austin P. Baldwin is the son of Austin and Julia Clarissa (Huyck) Baldwin, and was born in New York in 1834. He was educated in Middletown, Conn., and entered business in early life, becoming an enterprising and successful merchant. He married Alice Bradford, of Providence, R. I., a member of a family whose lineage includes some of the most notable names in the Colonial and Revolutionary history of the New England States. Mrs. Baldwin is a direct descendant of Governor William Bradford, one of the leaders of the Mayflower Pilgrims, Governor of the Plymouth Colony and the earliest historian of the Puritan settlement in America. Another of her ancestors in a direct line is Captain Miles Standish, 1584-1656, famous in New England tradition as the first commissioned military officer of the Colonists, and immortalized by the greatest of American poets. He was also the founder of Duxbury, Mass., and the magistrate of that town until his death. The erection, in 1872, of the monument to the memory of Miles Standish, at Duxbury, was due to a movement in which Mrs. Baldwin's father took an active part.

Mr. Baldwin resides in West Thirty-second Street. His children are Standish Bradford, Austin Radcliffe, and Alice Maud Baldwin. His son, Austin R. Baldwin, was graduated from Yale University in the class of 1886. Mr. Baldwin has traveled extensively, having made more than thirty visits to Europe. In 1896, accompanied by his children, he made a trip to Japan. He is a member of the Union League Club, of the St. Nicholas Society, and of the Downtown Association.