

OTIS MANNING.

Otis Manning was born at Littleton, Massachusetts, October 31, 1805, and was a son of Jonathan and Lydia (Howard) Manning, both natives of Chelmsford. His education was obtained at the district school, with the exception of one term spent at the Westford Academy. In early life he learned the wheelwright's trade, and for more than half a century he followed this vocation, working most of the time in a shop that is still standing near his present residence, which is a little northerly of Littleton Common. December 10, 1833, he was married at Westford to Miss Ann Crosby Carter, daughter of Ezra and Anna (Jaquith) Carter. He has one child, Ann Maria Manning.

Mr. Manning is a Republican, but has never actively participated in political affairs, except to perform the ordinary duties of citizenship. In matters of reform he has always been on the right side—being an Abolitionist in the days of slavery, and an advocate of temperance in the early days of that reform.

When almost everybody was accustomed to use some alcoholic liquor, he was a total abstainer, and this practice he has followed through life. In his church relations he is a staunch Congregationalist. In early life he joined the church in Westford, and for some years was superintendent of its Sunday-school. He was one of the original members of the

Orthodox Church in Littleton, which was organized May 14, 1840. Since the formation of this church he has held the office of deacon, and for years served as clerk and Sabbath-school superintendent. As a church officer he has been faithful and efficient, and as a Christian his life has been exceptionally commendable through these many long years of service for the Master. He has but rarely been absent from his place at church on the Sabbath, or at the weekly church meeting; and has been a ready and willing contributor for the maintenance of the institutions of his faith. Not only has he been devoted to the spreading of the Gospel at home and in his own land, but he has been much interested in the propagation of it in other lands. He has been a firm and substantial friend of the great missionary societies, and during a long life he has spent but few nights away from his native town except to attend religious conferences and conventions.

Few lives have perhaps been more exemplary than his; and in the quiet retirement of old age he still retains a lively interest in the causes that he has long helped maintain. He resides with his daughter, and with the exception of the infirmities incident to advanced age, he is still in the enjoyment of robust health.