

ROBERT BONNER.

Mr. Bonner, says Matthew Hale Smith, in an interesting book published by J. B. Burr & Co., of Hartford, entitled "Sunshine and Shadow," was born in the north of Ireland, not far from Londonderry, near the spot from which A. T. Stewart emigrated. The Scotch Presbyterian blood that made General Jackson so famous, and has given success to the well-known house of Brown & Brothers, runs in the blood of Mr. Bonner. He is simply a Scotchman born in Ireland. He was trained under the influence of the Shorter Catechism. From the faith of his fathers he has never departed. He has been trustee for many years in a Scotch Presbyterian Church in the upper part of New York, and a liberal contributor to the support of public worship and the various forms of benevolence and charity. He is a conscientious business man, with great resources, with fertility of genius unmatched, and with indomitable will, untiring industry, and more than all he possesses that crowning gift which Solomon received as an especial patrimony from God—"largeness of heart."

He was distinguished in his boyhood for great manliness of character, for frank and generous impulses. When a boy was wronged or wrongly accused, it was Bonner's custom to make the quarrel of his school-fellow his own. He allowed himself to be turned out of school for the part he took in defending a boy whom he knew to be innocent. At an early age he entered the printing office of the *Hartford Courant* to learn the art of printing. He was dexterous, swift at setting type, and led all the workmen in the nimbleness with which he could set up an article. The President's Message, in those days, was transmitted by mail. The editor of the *Courant* purchased an advance copy, paying for it the enormous sum of thirty dollars! The only advantage to be derived from this early copy was in getting the message out in advance of other papers. To accomplish this, Mr. Bonner performed the unheard-of feat of setting seventeen hundred ems an hour. He performed all the duties connected with his position, became an accomplished printer, tried his hand at correspondence, and seated himself occasionally in the editorial chair.

In 1844 Mr. Bonner removed to the city of New York. There was a popular impression that a literary paper could not succeed in this metropolis. Boston and Philadelphia monopolized the family newspapers and literary