

J. B. BURR.

Among those standing pre-eminent, and holding a deservedly high rank in the subscription-book publishing business of the country, is Mr. J. B. Burr, of Hartford, Conn., whose career has been no less eventful and marked than his success is complete and deserved. Though still a young man, he has won for himself a reputation for business tact and ability in every degree commendable, and of which he and his friends may well be proud.

Mr. Burr was born in Middlesex county, Connecticut, in the year 1835, and is consequently now thirty-five years of age. But few men have compressed so much hard labor, successful adventure, and world-wide travel into so few years. He remained with his father, who was an extensive farmer, working hard and zealously until his twentieth year, acquiring in the meantime the substantial common-school education which New England knows so well how to give, and which our hero so completely mastered.

Being urged to solicit for subscription books, and his ambition panting for a wider field of struggle than the farmer's life could offer, he bade adieu to the scenes of his boyhood, and entered upon that career which was eventually to bear him with attending success to the very "ends of the earth." He went first to Canada, where several months were very successfully employed, and after his return from this trip to Connecticut, having found the business so lucrative and congenial to his tastes, he engaged again in its pursuit, going to Chicago and Middle Illinois, where he spent four or five months with satisfactory results, and from thence pressed on to New Orleans. At this point he diverged for a time from the more legitimate path of his vocation, and proceeded on a pleasure trip to Cuba, "keeping an eye" to business at the same time (as all such men will and must), so that his voyage eventually resulted in a business success.

After a second visit to Connecticut, and a few months passed with friends there, he decided to try his fortune in the far West, beyond the Mississippi. Starting for Texas by the way of New Orleans, he spent six months in disposing of his literary wares to the people of that State. Returning again to Connecticut, he varied the point of his compass and pushed off for Nova Scotia and Newfoundland, spending five months in these places. From Newfoundland he returned to Hartford, and proposed to the publishing house for which he was operating to take a trip