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MR. JOHN F. GATES :

OVID, ERIE CO., PA.

The subject of the above sketch was born in the township of Concord, Erie Co., Pa., in the year 1847, and, like most other people, of very distinguished parents, with whom he continued to reside until it was necessary to strike out for himself. His early education, as he says himself, "was not such as it was;" and if it had not been for that fact, he is quite confident that he might have been as successful at teaching, or as distinguished as a profound lawyer, as he has since proved himself to be as a practical beekeeper, and a writer

for the press. The parental acres were extensive enough to afford our esteemed friend an equally extensive agricultural education. If his name was not "Norval," and his residence not the Grampian Hills, his ambition was quite equal to that of his great prototype, and ran in the same direction; for at the early age of eighteen years he "sought the bubble reputation at the cannon's mouth," and enlisted to serve his country during the war of the rebellion. Finding himself still alive at the close of operations, in spite of the enemy's bullets and the biscuits of the commissariat department, he returned to the paternal acres with a soul burning with desire to acquire a perfect and satisfactory topographical acquaintance with the vast stretch of territory which Uncle Sam stole from Papa Bull and his little Canadian brothers. During a portion of this time he was evidently afflicted with the same propensity that has distinguished Mr. Gladstone over all his predecessors, with this difference that whilst the distinguished British statesman satisfied the *fera natura* of his disposition by felling an occasional tree at remote intervals of a year or two, his equally distinguished contemporary went into the business by the acre, and covered himself with glory and the bosom of his country with chips and timber.

During this period, however, of physical and industrial activity, he was not insensible to softer emotions; and, influenced by the Biblical injunction that it is not good