

THE MANUFACTURE OF PAPER PRODUCTS.

We present a very admirable portrait of Walter E. Preble, of the firm of J. Q. Preble & Co., manager of the company's business and well known by all. No better practical illustration can be given of the magnitude to

which the manufacture of blank-books and paper products has grown, than a detailed description of the plant and management of J. Q. Preble & Co., and J. B. Sheffield & Son, with whom they are allied. For our data we are indebted to the Paper World.

At the very mouth of Esopus Creek, at the town of Saugerties, N. Y., on the west shore of the Hudson River, is a cluster of mills for making paper, for working it up into various articles of use, and for making the fibre that goes to form paper. The collective plant is a large one, and has many notable features that will arrest the attention of every person who is interested in paper, either in producing it or in manufacturing it into the various goods that go to the consumer, or in selling those goods to the public. These mills have a history of a rare character, and the men who have operated, and who now operate them and sell the goods, were and are notable men. In this group of mills are the two paper

mills of J. B. Sheffield & Son, now operated by the survivor, William R. Sheffield, the several factories for making an extensive line of blank-books, pads, tablets, envelopes, papereries, etc., under the joint proprietorship of Mr. Sheffield and J. Q. Preble & Co., the famous New York house, and the sulphite

mill of the Barclay Fibre Company, in which Mr. Sheffield has an important interest. Through these mills spruce logs and rags pass on till they emerge as handsome blank books or as beautiful boxed stationery, or as tablets of pleasing appearance. It is the only place in the country where there is such a long line of manufacture between raw

Preble & Co., is a man in the prime of life, with quick judgment and great executive ability. He began business in the paper warehouse of White & Sheffield, in New York, in 1865, and in 1868 came to Saugerties with his father. It is a vast industry that he has the oversight of, and, with a corps of assistants, he keeps all things moving and super-

vises a thousand things at once.

The year 1887 was a red letter year with paper and the manufacturers connected with it in Saugerties. This was due to an alliance made by Mr. Sheffield with the famous New York house of J. Q. Preble & Co., who have for many years carried on an immense trade in blank-books, papereries, envelopes, paper, tablets and other similar goods. The senior member of that firm was born in Maine in 1826 and began his business life at the age of 18 with an engraving and printing establishment in Worcester, Mass. In 1848 he went into business for himself in that city as a manufacturing stationer.

Mr. Preble went to New York in 1851 and opened a store in Pearl street for the manufacture and sale of fancy cards, envelopes, and stationery generally. He was one of those men who want plenty of room and who was unceasingly expanding to fill all the space that could be appropriated.

The result was that

he absorbed the business of competitors in an openhanded way and pushed his own trade to every quarter of the United States. He bought out G. W. Bell, the first man to make envelopes by machinery in New York, and also bought out the blank-book business of L. & E. Edwards, of Norwich, Conn.



WALTER E. PREBLE.

material and finished product almost entirely under one management.

William R. Sheffield, who is the head of the paper manufacturing company of J. B. Sheffield & Son, and who is the manager of the blank-book and other business, in maintaining which he is associated with J. Q.