

Philip Danforth Armour



N Stockbridge, Madison County, New York, on May 16th, 1832, Philip Danforth Armour was born. He is distinctly an American, as are his ancestors for generations.

His boyhood's days were spent on a farm, where the fundamental principles which have made his life a success—habitual frugality and industry without ceasing—were instilled into his character. As a boy he was genial to a degree, healthy, resolute and strong; he held his own wherever chance found him, and was a leader among his classmates, as later events were bound to make him among men. A country life among the Stockbridge hills, while a most excellent place for a boy to be reared, was too obscure for one so tempered; consequently it is not strange that when the excitement due to the discovery of gold in California was spreading over the country, we find Mr. Armour on his way to the land of flowers. The trials and hardships which he encountered there seemed to have broadened his views and knit together his dominant characteristics.

In 1856 he returned to the East and visited his parents, whom he had always held in reverential affection. To them he divulged an account of his success and related the stories of his adventures. (To a few of the most intimate friends of the family the father whispered the fact of the young man having brought back some money with him.)

After remaining with his parents a few weeks he once more turned westward, and finally located in Milwaukee, where he formed a co-partnership and entered the commission business with Frederick B. Miles. After a successful run, they dissolved in 1863.

The dogmatic and persistent way in which he pursued his business, his characteristic manner in grasping out for new ideas, brought him prominently before his fellow townspeople. Though yet young, he was looked upon by many with something akin to envy, at the prestige which he had already attained.

In the spring of 1863 there occurred what later proved to be the forerunner of a very successful business engagement in the joint co-partnership arrangement between John Plankinton and Philip D. Armour. But the success which Mr. Armour has met in his business transactions is so well known that it is not necessary to allude to it here.

In October, 1862, he was married to Miss Malvina Belle Ogden, at Cincinnati, Ohio—a union which has proved to be most happy.

Mr. Armour's capacity for work is something wonderful. He is at his desk by 7 a. m., and frequently before this time. Fatigue is to him an unknown term. He has traveled extensively, is a close observer, and can give as clear and as accurate a forecast of the financial condition of the country as it is possible to do.

Notwithstanding the vast amount of work which the management of so large a business necessarily imposes upon him, Mr. Armour finds time to take a lively interest in the two institutions which bear his name—"The Armour Mission," founded by Joseph F. Armour, and the "Armour Institute of Technology," founded by himself. He makes several visits a week to the Institute, and is deeply pleased in the work which the students are doing.

It is this combination of industry, untiring energy and philanthropy, that has made the name of Philip D. Armour not only so potent in the West, but a recognized leader among the merchants of the world.