



JOHN TURNER.

JOHN TURNER was born in County Donegal, Ireland, in 1813, of Scotch Presbyterian parentage. He was brought up and educated in his native place, but, instead of joining the church of his fathers, he became, at an early age, an active member of the Baptist denomination.

In 1832, he came to America and settled in Yorkville, where he engaged in the house-painting business, a trade which he had learned in his native country. During his thirty years' residence in Yorkville, he carried on a large and successful business and was active in church and charitable enterprises. He was largely instrumental in the building of the Park Baptist Church, the first Baptist church in America which had a spire. He also started and furnished the Yorkville reading-room and library, which was afterward burned, but most of the books was saved.

During the draft riots of 1863, Mr. Turner's store, corner of 86th street and 3rd avenue, was burned by the rioters on account of Mr. Turner's well-known union sentiments. Having then accumulated a comfortable fortune, Mr. Turner retired from business and purchased the Lenhart property on Amboy road, near Bethel Church, Tottenville.

In 1873, Mr. Turner exchanged the Lenhart property for his present residence in Brooklyn, and the following year purchased a summer residence on Washington street. He took an active interest in the matter of incorporating the village in 1869, but, becoming dissatisfied with the management of the village affairs, he was as active in getting the charter repealed two years later, in Albany.

Mr. Turner has been, financially, the chief support of the South Baptist Church of Tottenville. He gave the church the site on which it stands and moved it from Johnson avenue to its present location, and built the lecture-room. He has recently given the church the two stores adjoining it, together with a cottage on Arents avenue, and has recently contributed five hundred dollars for further repairs.

Mr. Turner was twice married. By his first wife, who was a native of Edinburgh, Scotland, he had two sons, beside other children. The eldest, John, enlisted in the 10th New York Volunteers, and was killed in the battle of the Wilderness. The other son, Thomas, lives in Brooklyn and holds a position in the Brooklyn post-office. His second wife, who is still living, is of English descent. Before her marriage she had been for over twenty years employed in the book depart-

ment of the Methodist Book Concern in New York, and since her marriage has been esteemed by all who know her for her many domestic virtues.

Mr. Turner has passed his time for the last few years, during the summer, at Tottenville, at his favorite pastime of fishing, at which he is quite an adept, but for the past year failing health has prevented his indulging in this recreation.