



HON. JOHN A. DECKER OF WELD.

IN the growth of inland cities, he has played important part;
 Rumford Falls and Millinocket,—was behind them from the start—
 For he early saw a future, for the wheels of industry,
 Where the waters idly tumbled o'er the barriers to the sea;
 And now mills for pulp and paper with their smoking chimneys tall
 Mark the place where all was silence, save the roaring water-fall.
 A man of strong convictions, he much rather fight than run,
 As you'll learn, on all occasions, when there's fighting to be done;
 And one instance I'm recalling, just to make my meaning plain,
 Was when Decker joined with Ricker—to "Save the Lakes of Maine."
 To this task he lent his service, with an energy and zeal,
 That did wonders for a movement, that bespoke the commonweal.
 He has lands along the lakeside—but no catalog will do—
 For the best of all his holdings are his friendships, strong and true—
 They outclass blocks in Millinocket or all that title gives;
 For they bespeak the friend and neighbor, in the spirit that he lives.