## Men of the Hour: J. H. Barrows

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Transcription:

MR. J. H. BARROWS OF BETHEL.

I USED to love the rocking chair, a rocking to and fro;

A lullaby to slumber, on the edges of the dark.

I used to have a notion that its oscillating motion

Was invented by old Noah, in the Ark.

But I've learned, with satisfaction, that is born of local pride,

That the rocking-chair was cradled up in Maine;

For its author's personality, is located with finality,

'Twas Barrows, as I hasten to explain.

Did I say that he invented the earliest rocking-chair?

Permit me! Such a thing I'd not suggest,

For the slumb'rous "to and fro" must have started long ago,

On its mission for the toiling sons of rest.

But I want you all to know that for more than fifty years,

He has made 'em at an undiminished pace,

And has started up a stock, of the happy chairs that rock,

For the welfare and the comfort of the race.

Tho he's done a lot of other things that speak for humankind;

Tho he's labored for the "folks" for many a day;

Tho he's had a warlike mission as a sergeant, non-commission,

In the armies of the blue against the gray;

Tho he's filled the chairs of office in the ancient lodge that's blue;

Tho he's labored for the church with zeal and care,

I climax the aggregation of his well-earned reputation

"He has built for us the perfect rocking-chair."

*Transcription produced by the DigitalMaine Transcription Project*