THE CONSCIENCE OF JOHN W. STEELE.

Long after the world has tired of the disgraceful story of a flagrant violation of public confidence it sometimes gets the truth about a man who passed through the trying situation and came out clean.

At the funeral of Judge John W. Steele of Oberlin, Ohio, President King of Oberlin College said:

"Judge Steele was quite unusually free from that cowardly slinking out of duty when it is uncomfortable or inconspicuous - that thing that sometimes characterizes otherwise good men." One true story that President King had in mind was this:

John Steele was a director in the Citizens National Bank of Oberlin. That bank - as all the world knows now - went to smash because of the selfish schemes of its president and cashier and Cassie Chadwick. Long before the crash came John Steele knew that there was trouble ahead. Not all the directors had advance information. But John Steele found out.

But John Steele did not sell a dollar's worth of stock. He did not take out a dollar of his personal deposit. Although members of his own family had accounts in the bank, they got no hint of danger from him. They had to wait with their fellow-townsmen for public knowledge of the disaster. And then it was too late!

When the trouble came some of the Judge's friends went to him and protested. They said that he should at least have warned his own family. They said that those children could not afford to lose any money. They asked John Steele why he did what he did. Here is the answer he made - as President King reported it at the funeral:

"I did what I did because I had to go on living with John Steele!"

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Miss Tarbell and Mr. Ragler:-

Of course when the first draft cooled I saw its absurdness. Is this better? I have a letter from King verifying the statement of facts. Mr. Phillips has a copy of this - and King's letter.

Bissell

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