This Ex-President of the Association of California Pioneers first entered on the stage of earthly existence in the old Knickerbocker city of Albany, New York, he having been born July 24th 1820. His father William Z Tiffany was by occupation a painter in that city. The son Robert attended the Lancasterian School in Albany for five years, i.e. between the ages of eight and thirteen.

Next he was apprenticed to Elisha Willett a hatter with whom he remained for three years. He completed the term of his apprenticeship in Troy, New York with D. N. Ellis, at the expiration of which period he came down to Albany, and during the ensuing three years, had the superintendence of the hatter's trade of John McManus.

Next Mr Tiffany entered the Emporium of Beebe and Coster on Broadway, New York, this firm then being the most extensive manufacturers of hats and caps in the United States. He remained in their establishment for nearly five years, and until the news of the gold discoveries in California directed his steps thitherward.

He left New York January 10th 1849 on the barque "Josephine", Captained James Brittan an old Gotham pilot being in command of the barque. A company of twenty had purchased the barque, and freighted her with an outfit of stores &c, amounting in value to some twenty thousand dollars. The association was divided into three separate and distinct "watches" which did regular guard duty aboard the vessel.
The barque was forty five days in making the "run" to Rio De Janeiro in which harbor there was a tarrying of ten days, for the purpose of taking aboard provisions, such as fresh vegetables, poultry, and fruits, and also of giving the passengers "a whiff" of land breezes, and a chance to visit the Fishops Gardens, Cocomado mountains, and the picturesque suburban villages of Botofogo and others. The "Josephine" also ran into the port of Valparaiso, where she stayed one week.

On July 4th 1849, the Captain made the port of Monterey, which harbor he entered believing it to be that of San Francisco. He soon however got correctly "posted" as to the "lay of the land", and again running up the Coast, dropped anchor inside the Golden Gate July 9th. The entire party at once went up to Sutterville, built a store, and went to work.

Mr Tiffany made a trip to the mines, and located at Coloma on the South fork of the American river. Here he mined and with eight of his companions enjoyed the felicity of sleeping in the original "Sutter Mill" to be renowned in history for succeeding ages. In October he returned to Sutterville and when the early autumnal rains set in the Company disposed of their barque to a party to embark in the Oregon lumber trade. Their stores were also sold, and then Mr Tiffany came down to San Francisco, where he engaged in merchandising during the winter of 1849.

Early in the spring of the latter year Mr Tiffany went to New York, where he stayed for two years, and did some business but still retaining his interests on the Pacific Slope. When he did return to this Coast in 1853,
he traded in various portions of the state, and until
1857, when he opened his hat emporium on Commercial
Street between Kearny and Montgomery in Company with
Charles Collins.

Those awful fires did not leave this firm un-
scathed, for in two months after the commencement of
their partnership, the greedy and remorseless flames
swept away their stock in trade. Mr Tiffany had just
one dollar and a quarter left from the wreck, but un-
dismayed instantly set about retrieving his lost
fortunes.

He took a store in Washington Street opposite the
site of Maguire's Opera House, where he conducted a
large prosperous and lucrative business for thirteen
years. And then selling out to his old partner Col-
lins, he himself launched into real estate speculations.
He has continued operating in this line of business
ever since and likewise served as one of the Directors
of the Clay Street Savings Bank and Loan Society. The
hosts of friends of Mr Tiffany in the Pioneer Association
have elected him a Director thereof for four successive
years. They also chose him President of the Society
in 1866, there being no opposing candidate. He is
furthermore a member of California Lodge No 1.
of the Masonic fraternity.

Robert J Tiffany was married in Madison, N.Y. Church,
New York, April 6th 1845 to Miss P J Wine, by whom he
has had six children, three of whom have deceased. Two
surviving sons and one daughter reside in San Francisco.

Mr Tiffany has made several trips to the Atlantic
states and in 1878, visited Europe with his family, and attending the World's Exposition in Paris. At this writing (Jan. 1, 1880) he is in the prime of manly health, and mental faculties unimpaired.

He has liberally started the nucleus of a charity fund for needy Pioneers the sum to be used when $10,000 shall have been secured.

To Mr. Tiffany one of the most gratifying episodes in his business career was his connection with the Hat Finisher's Association, a society organized in England as early as 1860. In 1852-3, he was prominently interested in founding the hat finishing trade association of New York City. Then he went as a delegate to Philadelphia, and aided in the organization of a similar Society in that city of broad brimmed hats. At the conclusion of their ten days deliberations, Mr. Tiffany was elected President of the New Association.

As a testimonial of the esteem in which he was regarded by his associates of the craft in San Francisco, it may be mentioned in this connection, that on his return from the East in 1855, Mr. Tiffany was presented by the journeymen hatters of that city with a splendid gold medal.

Died June 6th 1886.