

and successfully engaged in the real estate business until his death, on March 31, 1900.

In 1895 Mr. Reed was one of the ten men who formed what was known as "The Shelbina Corn Company." This company purchased the surplus corn crop of that year, placing the same in cribs along the railroad, and were compelled to hold it for over three years, finally disposing of it at a loss of several thousand dollars to themselves, but they prevented many a poor farmer from losing everything he possessed by thus furnishing a market for his crop and at a price far in advance of what was being offered for it elsewhere. Mr. Reed was a large stockholder of "The Old Bank of Shelbina" at the time of his death, besides having a large amount of city property.

He was married March 23, 1869, at Dayton, Ohio, to Miss Isabella Hoover. One child was born to them, Mary L., who is now the wife of John R. Morgan, of Shelbina, a sketch of whom will be found on other pages of this work. Both he and his wife were active and leading members of the Christian church. In politics he was ever found arrayed with the Democratic party, but never consented to hold public office of any kind, though often urged to allow his name to go before the people. He preferred to serve in the more humble position of a private citizen, though no worthy project ever went without his earnest support. He was a man who had unbounded confidence in the future of northern Missouri, and was ever ready to lend his aid and support to any plan that promised to

promote the best interests of her people. His wife's death occurred July 1, 1895.

#### AUGUST BOWER.

This well known business man and honored citizen of Bethel is a native son of Shelby county and a member of one of its sterling pioneer families. In the sketch of the career of his elder brother, John C. Bower, on other pages of this work, is given a review of the family history, so that it is not necessary to repeat the data in the present sketch.

August Bower was born in the village of Bethel, his present place of residence, on October 24, 1846, in which year his parents, John L. and Christina (Schnauffer) Bower, had taken up their residence in Shelby county, whither they came from the state of Pennsylvania. In the village schools of Bethel Mr. Bower secured his early educational training, and after leaving school he served a thorough apprenticeship to the trade of shoemaker, following the old German custom of the sturdy founders of the Bethel colony. After the completion of his apprenticeship he continued to follow the work of his trade for a period of three years and he then became associated with his father in the general merchandise business in Bethel. In 1867 he and his brother, Theodore L., purchased their father's interest in the enterprise, which they thereafter continued with ever increasing success, under the firm name of T. & A. Bower, until 1884, when their brother David purchased an interest in the business, which was continued under the title of Bower Bros. for the ensuing

four years, when August and David sold their interests to Theodore L., who continued in business some years. In connection with his operations in the local mercantile field the subject of this review became the owner of farming property, which he utilized in general agricultural operations and in the raising of horses and cattle upon a somewhat extensive scale. After selling out his interest in the mercantile business he devoted his entire attention to his farming and stock growing operations for a period of three years, when he again entered the general merchandise trade, associating himself with his brother David and son Wesley A. under the firm name of D. & A. Bower & Co., which is still retained. The firm has a large and well equipped store and controls an extensive business throughout the fine farming district tributary to the thriving little village of Bethel. August Bower still continues to give a general supervision to his farming interests, and his fine landed estate in Bethel township comprises 400 acres of most productive land.

Mr. Bower is one of the substantial and progressive citizens of his native county and his business career has been marked by earnest and honest endeavor along normal lines of enterprise, through which he has gained a large and definite success. He was one of the organizers and incorporators of the Bank of Bethel, in which he is still a stockholder, as is he also in the Commercial Bank of Shelby, another of the staunch financial institutions of the county. He takes much interest in all that tends to conserve the material and social well-being of the community, is a stalwart Republican in

his political adherency, and both he and his wife are regular attendants of the Methodist Episcopal church.

On March 31, 1874, Mr. Bower was united in marriage to Miss Priscilla Bair, of Bethel, a member of one of the well known pioneer families of this county, where she was born and reared. Of the four children three are living, namely: Wesley, who is engaged in business with his father at Bethel; Mary, who is the wife of William P. Kraft, of this village; and Gertrude, who remains at the parental home, which is one of the attractive residences of Bethel and known for its generous hospitality. Besides this property Mr. Bower also owns other real estate in his home village, where he commands the unqualified esteem of all who know him, and that implies the entire populace of this part of the county.

#### DAVID BOWER.

The family of which the subject of this review is an honored representative has long been established in Shelby county, as his parents were identified with the founding of the staunch German colony whose interests centered in the village of Bethel, where he himself was born and with whose business affairs and civic interests he is prominently identified. In the sketch of the career of his elder brother, John C. Bower, on other pages of this review, is given definite information concerning the honored parents, and by reason of this fact and the facility with which reference may be made to the article mentioned, the data are not repeated in this sketch.