

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.

Mr. Bower is one of the leading business men of Bethel, where he is junior member of the firm of Bower Brothers, who here conduct a thriving general merchandise business.

Mr. Bower was born in the village that is now his home and the date of his nativity was December 22, 1850. He is indebted to the public schools of Bethel for the early educational advantages that were accorded to him, and after leaving school he learned the trade of cabinet making, to which he continued to devote his attention for a period of eight years. In 1884 he became associated with his elder brothers, who had established themselves in the general merchandise business under the title of T. & A. Bower, and after four years of identification with this enterprise he and his brother August sold their interest in the same to their brother Theodore L., a member of the original firm. After his retirement from this business David Bower was associated with his brother August in general farming and stock-raising, to which he gave his undivided attention, making a specialty of the raising of horses and cattle, until 1891, when he and his brother August again entered the mercantile trade, by opening a large and well equipped general store in Bethel, where they have since conducted a large and prosperous business, under the firm name of D. & A. Bower & Company. The subject of this review still continues to give a general supervision to his farming and stock-growing interests, and is the owner of a fine farm of 400 acres, located in Bethel township. He was one of the organizers and incorporators of the Bank of Bethel, in which

he is now a member of the board of directors, and he is also a stockholder in the Commercial Bank of Shelbina, this county. He is known as one of the reliable and honorable business men and substantial and loyal citizens of his native county, where he commands unqualified popular confidence and esteem. His political support is given to the Republican party and he is now a member of the county central committee of Bethel township. He and his wife hold membership in the Methodist Episcopal church.

In the year 1884 Mr. Bower was united in marriage to Miss Matilda Bair, who was born and reared in Bethel and who is a daughter of Reuben Bair, a representative of one of the sterling pioneer families of this part of the county. Mr. and Mrs. Bower have four children, Clara, Marvin, Frank and Fannie.

#### CARL E. ROWER.

Mr. Bower has the distinction of being the youngest bank president in his native county, being at the present time the chief executive of the Bank of Bethel, and he is known as one of the progressive and representative business men of the younger generation in Shelby county, where he is well known and where he is not denied the fullest measure of objective confidence and esteem. He is a son of Theodore L. Bower, one of the honored and influential citizens of the county, and one to whom is accorded consideration in a special article on other pages of this volume, so that further review of the family history is not demanded in the present sketch.