

WILLIAM T. HART.

The chances and changes of location and employment are many and various in American life, and so extensively numerous that a man who starts in one occupation at twenty or twenty-one is very frequently found pursuing a different one at forty. The career of William T. Hart, of Shelbina, one of the best known and most esteemed livery men and horse dealers in this part of the state, furnishes a striking illustration of the general truth of this statement. He began life for himself as a farmer and live stock man, occupations to which he had been reared, and is now conducting an active business in the service of the public and carrying on an extensive trade in horses.

Mr. Hart is of old Kentucky stock, his father and his grandfather having been born and "bred in old Kentucky," and it may be due to this fact that he is so fond of horses. The father, James T. Hart, came to Missouri to live in 1846. He located in Monroe county, where he taught school for a number of years. He then turned his attention to farming and also to dealing in tobacco in Shelbina. His son, William T. Hart, was born in this county on March 2, 1857. The father was a successful farmer and merchant, and a man of prominence and influence in the several communities in which he lived. He lived a useful life, was a devout member of the Methodist church, and died in 1898.

He was married twice. The first time to a Miss Kerrick, a native of Kentucky. They had three children, all of whom are deceased. Their mother died in 1850,

and in 1853 the father married a second time, being united on this occasion with Miss Elizabeth Doctor, who was born in Ohio. Six children were born of this union, all of whom are living: John T., a resident of this county; William T., whose home is in Shelbina; W. H., who lives in Knox county, Missouri; S. P., who is a prosperous citizen of California; Harriet, the wife of H. W. Frye, of Kansas City, Missouri; and F. B., who is a resident of Monroe county, this state. Their mother died in March, 1898.

William T. Hart had no educational facilities except those furnished by the district schools of Monroe county, and was not allowed to attend them with strict regularity or for a very long period. The work on his father's farm required every force available, and he was obliged to take his share of it at an early age. After finally leaving school he continued to work for his father on the home place a few years, then located on a farm of 340 acres and began farming and raising live stock on his own account, the farm being located in Monroe county. His operations were extensive in both industries on this farm, but he gave especial attention to raising and feeding large quantities of stock for the markets.

In 1907 he moved to Shelbina and began the career as a livery and horse salesman, for which he has become distinguished throughout a large extent of the surrounding country. His barn is well equipped for its purposes, the service given its patrons is first class, and everything pertaining to it is up to the highest level of excellence in the business. His dealings in horses are exten-

sive, and these, too, are governed by the most scrupulous exactness and altogether satisfying to those who have a share in them as purchasers. He conducts his business as a horse dealer in a way that removes from his transactions the reproach often attached to this line of mercantile life and raises it to a rank which has won him high approval and general popularity.

On February 25, 1878, Mr. Hart was united in marriage with Miss Belle Robertson, a native of this state. They have had four children, two of whom are living. James, who resides in Shelbina, and Carl, who is still at home with his parents. The father is a Democrat in politics, an Odd Fellow and a Modern Woodman of America in fraternal life, and he and his wife are members of the Methodist church in religious connec-

tion. His party, his lodges and his church receive a fair share of his attention, and their interests always have his earnest and helpful support.

The affairs of his city and county also enlist his attention and have the benefit of his advice and assistance. No enterprise for their improvement or the welfare of their people escapes his notice or goes without his aid. He is public spirited and progressive, desiring advancement for his community only along wholesome lines of progress and its elevation only by means of enduring value. He stands well in the city and county, and is favorably known and regarded as a man and citizen in much of the adjoining territory, and wherever else the people have knowledge of his worth, his enterprise and his devotion to his state.