

men of America and in religious affiliation he is allied with the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, in which he is an active and zealous worker.

On the soil of Missouri and amid its mercantile interests Mr. Cox has exemplified the traits of character and elements of elevated manhood that gave his ancestors prominence and influence in the "Old Dominion" for generations. He has been sedulous in industry, upright in conduct and enterprising in all personal and public affairs. And as no example of worth and potency is ever lost on the American people, he is esteemed in the community which has witnessed and had the benefits of his earnestness and zeal as one of its best and most serviceable citizens. In business, in social relations and in domestic life he has met every requirement of upright and serviceable living, and in public affairs he has been both a stimulus and a sedative, inciting his fellow citizens to all good works for the advantage of the community and restraining them from all excesses in the exercise of their enterprise. The community is indebted to him for wise counsel and productive energy, and also for prudent guidance and conservative force, and it esteems him accordingly.

CHARLES A. HICKMAN.

A scion of valiant ancestry and filled with the spirit of American patriotism, Charles A. Hickman, of Hunnewell, has exploited in the pursuits of peaceful industry the attributes of exalted manhood that have distinguished other members of his family on the field of carnage and helped to give American citizenship its

standing in the estimation of the world. His grandfather, William A. Hickman, fought under Andrew Jackson at New Orleans in one of the decisive battles of the world's history, where native courage and love of liberty were matched and won against splendid discipline and the heroism of ten thousand sanguinary conflicts.

Mr. Hickman was born in Shelby county on December 7, 1873, and began his education in the public schools of Hunnewell, which he completed at the Christian University at Canton, Missouri, where he was a student in 1892 and 1893. He is a son of Joseph H. and Fannie (Reid) Hickman, the former a native of Alabama and the latter of Shelby county. A brief account of their lives will be found elsewhere in this volume. After leaving school the son entered the employ of W. Stoddard, a railway contractor of St. Paul, Minnesota, with whom he worked until 1905. He then passed one year in Chicago, and since that time has been continuously connected with the contracting firm of C. H. Sharp & Co. Construction work has engaged his attention from the dawn of his manhood until the present time except for two years, when he was engaged in farming in the Indian Territory. It will be easily inferred from the story of his life as outlined above that he has had a great variety of experiences and has mingled with men under vastly differing circumstances. His opportunities of observation have been extensive and have presented a wide expanse in phases of human life. He has profited by them to his own advantage and that of the community in which he has so long lived and

labored, and in consequence his services to the city and its people have been of a high order of excellence and fruitful for their good. He has studied conditions and requirements under many circumstances and is able to deduct the right measure of good from all for any particular necessity at home. And being engaged in construction work, he has also been in touch with the genius of improvement and learned just how men feel toward it in any given case. He has therefore been able to apply his own energy and capacity in this regard intelligently and by it lead up to good results. He is regarded as one of the best and most useful citizens of Hunnewell, for he is always alert to its substantial and enduring welfare and eager in his efforts to promote it.

In political faith Mr. Hickman is a firm Republican, standing by the principles of his party with unquestioning loyalty and supporting its candidates with all his power under all circumstances. In local affairs, however, his first consideration is the welfare of the community, whether the interests involved be those of the city or the county, and for their good he works incessantly without regard to partisan or personal claims. In fraternal life he is connected with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Ancient Order of United Workmen and Masons. In these organizations he finds latitude for the exercise of his public spirit, and he gives it free rein in them to the end that the people around him derive the benefit of his activity. His religious affiliation is with the Christian church, and in that also he has long been active and effective as a worker and

wise and judicious as a counselor. He is a stockholder in the Farmers & Merchants' Bank of Hunnewell and connected with other institutions of value in promoting the enduring welfare of Hunnewell and Shelby county, of which he is recognized as one of the leading and most influential citizens.

THE COMMERCIAL BANK OF SHELBINA, MISSOURI.

This bank, which is one of the historic financial institutions of Shelby county, was founded on October 28, 1888, with a capital stock of \$30,000, all of which was paid in at once before the bank was opened for business. The officers at the beginning were: President, William H. Warren; vice-president, C. H. Lasley; cashier, John J. Bragg; directors, William H. Warren, C. H. Lasley, John J. Bragg, John J. Ellis, J. W. Thompson, S. G. Parsons, John T. Frederick, F. D. Crow and Thomas M. Sparks.

Mr. Warren served as president until July, 1890, when he was succeeded by S. G. Parsons, who served until February, 1894. John R. Lyell was then elected president, but in September, 1895, he resigned and was chosen cashier, J. W. Thompson succeeding him as president and serving as such until his death in 1898. Soon after the death of Mr. Thompson the bank went into liquidation. A reorganization was had in 1898, with J. William Towson as president. Mr. Towson retired in 1900 and J. R. Lyell, the present incumbent of the presidency, was chosen to succeed him.

The vice-presidents have also changed from time to time. Mr. Lasley served