

ocrat of the old school, seeing in the principles of his party the best assurance of public and private security and clean and upright government, and standing by them as with the tug of gravitation. For over forty years he has been a member of the Masonic order and has studied with zeal and clearness of vision the lessons portrayed in the symbolism of the order, all of which he has tried to exemplify in his daily life. His religious connection is with the Methodist Episcopal Church South, in whose good works he has long been an active and potential factor.

Mr. Janes has been married twice. His first union was with Miss Sarah Meford, of Marion county, Missouri, and occurred on September 22, 1860. They had four children, all of whom are living. They are: Sarah Etta, wife of W. B. Thiehoff, of League City, Texas; William H., of Paris, Missouri; Vincie B., of Cameron City, Missouri; and Lula E., wife of Bruce Blackburn, of Los Angeles, California. Mr. Janes' second marriage took place on May 11, 1881. In this he became the husband of Mrs. Elizabeth Scratch, the widow of John D. Scratch, and a native of Pennsylvania. They are the parents of two children, both living: Lozetta, wife of William H. Jones, of Paris, Missouri; and Mattie, wife of James E. Spencer, of Hunnewell. Mr. Janes has known Shelby county from his childhood and has lived in it for more than a generation of human life. He is a living witness of its progress and also of the struggles and trials through which the advance has been won. He has borne his full share of the burden incident to the develop-

ment of the country and is therefore fully entitled to enjoy the fruits of the labors he has shared with others in this behalf. The people accord him this right without stint, regarding him as one of their most useful and representative citizens.

JOHN W. LAIR.

The interesting subject of this brief review, who has been one of the most successful and enterprising farmers in Shelby county, has passed the whole of his life until the summer of 1910, at which time he moved to Gordon, Nebraska. He was born in Shelby county on March 18, 1846, and is a son of Robert and Elizabeth (Culberson) Lair, the former a native of Kentucky and the latter of North Carolina.

The father's life began in 1810, and he became a resident of Missouri in 1828, coming to the state as a youth of eighteen with his parents, who followed the example given them by their parents and emigrated from their native heath to the farther west when it was a part of the almost untrodden wilderness of our wide domain. The paternal grandfather of Mr. Lair, William Lair, was a native of Pennsylvania and became a resident of Kentucky when he was a young man, striding boldly into the wilds in the wake of that hardy adventurer, discoverer and civilizer, Daniel Boone, and taking up his part in the work of improvement in the region that great man and his followers were wresting from the dominion of the wild forces of nature and their offspring of the plains and the forest. In Kentucky he transformed a tract of wild land into a good farm and on it he

reared his family, but finally left the worn and wasted tenement of his adventurous spirit to be laid at rest in the soil of a newer state. He brought his family to Missouri in 1828, and again gave himself up to the demands and dangers of the frontier, repeating in Missouri what he had achieved in Kentucky.

A few years after his arrival in this state Robert Lair located in Shelby county and started farming and raising stock on his own account. To these lines of industry he adhered until his death in 1884. He married Miss Elizabeth Culberson, a native of North Carolina, and they became the parents of six children. Of these three are living: Mary, wife of George Latimor of Shelby county; John W. of Shelbina, who is the subject of this review; and Frances Marion, wife of George Bowers, of Shelbyville. In politics the father was a Republican from the birth of the party to his death, standing by its principles through all changes of conditions and firmly supporting them and its candidates in all campaigns.

John W. Lair was reared on his father's farm and obtained his education in the district schools of the vicinity. His natural bent was to farming and he yielded to it without murmur or hesitation, assuming charge of the parental homestead when he left school, and conducting its operations until 1870. He then bought a farm of his own and gave himself up wholly to its cultivation and improvement. His success was such as to inspire him to more ambitious efforts, and he became a dealer in farm lands, buying them, improving them and then

selling them, his operations working greatly to his own profit and equally to the advantage of the county and its people. He has also been long engaged in raising stock on an extensive scale and has for years been ranked among the leading shippers in this part of the state. In all his undertakings he has been very successful, and furnishes an impressive example of what good judgment and enterprise in the use of opportunities is capable of in this land of boundless chances and this state of rapid progress and development.

Like his father, Mr. Lair has given his faith, loyalty and support to the principles of the Republican party in national politics. But in local affairs his first consideration has been the enduring welfare of the county and its people without regard to partisanship or personal relations. He has been of great service in promoting that welfare and is esteemed on all sides as one of the most useful citizens of the county and one of its most worthy and representative men.

On December 25, 1869, he was united in marriage with Miss Margaret Wilson, of this county. They have had seven children and have five living: Myrtle, wife of Nathan Cochran, of Gordon, Nebraska; Ella, wife of Howell Jewett; Maude, wife of Dr. John Hendricks, of St. Louis; William, one of the prosperous and influential citizens of Shelby county; and Bonnie Jean, wife of Brooks Corwine, of Shelbina. These all, in their several localities, are exemplifying the family traits of enterprise, thrift and intelligent devotion to duty, and have won the regard and good will of all who know them.

Although the father has passed his three score years and lived a very industrious and exacting life, he is still vigorous and energetic, and as eager for any new undertaking for the good of the county, whether by private or public forces, as he ever was, and is as willing to undergo exertion as younger men, with the assurance that his efforts will be as fruitful as those of any. He is an example to all, active himself and of great service through the activities he awakens and stimulates in others.

JAMES' A. McATEE.

Now and for many years one of the leading business men of Hunnewell, and held in the highest esteem throughout the surrounding country, in this and adjacent counties, James A. McAtee went through a variety of trying experiences before he settled down to the interesting and useful life of trade with which he has been connected for nearly a third of a century. He was born in the old colonial city of Georgetown, in the District of Columbia, on December 30, 1849, and lived for a number of years in that then antique settlement which, as a suburb of the new capital of the country had an importance all its own. The conditions of travel and the surrounding country at the time made it remote from the capital, but still near enough to catch some reflection from that enterprising and ambitious municipality, especially as it was the residence of men eminent in the civil, military and naval life of that period of our country's history.

While it may not be a fair deduction to assume that Mr. McAtee's spirit of

patriotism was quickened and intensified by the suggestions and associations of his boyhood in the old town which still bears the name of the last English king that had dominion over this country or any part of it, although it has for years been a part of the city of Washington, it is a fact that he has at every period of his life manifested a very warm interest in the welfare of his country and done all he could, with the light he has had, to promote that welfare. Living and flourishing on the plains of the great West, he has been able to take in the feelings and aspirations of the East and regard our nationality with a sweep of vision that reviewed every part of the country and looked upon all sections as equally important.

Mr. McAtee is a son of Samuel I. and Annie (Kidwell) McAtee, the former a native of Marion county, Kentucky, and the latter of the state of Maryland. The father came to Missouri in 1852 and bought farms in Lincoln and Ralls counties, which he farmed for a few years. He then became a grocer in New London, Ralls county, and continued in business as such until the breaking out of the Civil war, when he sold his business and retired to a farm just outside the limits of New London. The portion of the state in which he lived was torn by dissension during the war, both sides to the great sectional conflict laying it under tribute and harassing its people. By 1864 the atmosphere of sectional controversy became so hot that the family moved to Monroe in that year, and there the father again entered the grocery trade, continuing his operations in this line until 1867. He then took up his resi-