

of the principles of manhood involved in them has risen to consequence and influence among the people, being regarded not only as one of the most enterprising and intelligent farmers in their midst, but also as one of the best citizens of his township.

Mr. Gibson was born on January 30, 1863, in Montgomery county, Virginia, and is a son of John and Olive (Howrey) Gibson, the former born in the same county as his son and the latter in Floyd county in the same state, these being adjoining counties. His grandfather, also named John Gibson, was a native of Virginia, too, and passed the whole of his life in that state. The father was a general farmer and also a preacher of the gospel. He came to Missouri and resided in Shelby county until his death. In politics he was a Republican and his religious affiliation was with the Christian church. His marriage with Miss Olive Howrey took place in Virginia, and by it he became the father of nine children, seven of whom are living: Alice, the wife of Joseph Hall, of Virginia; William T., to whom these paragraphs are specially devoted; John, who is a resident of Shelby county; Anna, the wife of Grant Winter, of Virginia; James, who also lives in that state; Lynn, who is a resident of Nebraska; Ernest, whose home is in this county; and Mary, the wife of William Haffner, also a resident of Shelby county.

William T. Gibson obtained his education in the country schools of his native county. In 1885, when he was twenty-two years old, he came to Missouri and took up his residence in Shelby county. During the first three years of his resi-

dence in this county he worked as a hired man on farms, and in 1888 and 1889, just after his marriage, he lived on a farm he rented. In the year last mentioned he bought 140 acres of land and settled down on it with a view to improving it and making the most he could out of its cultivation and the live stock industry he started in connection with that. He has been very successful in his undertakings, and now owns and cultivates with vigor, enterprise and intelligence 540 acres, his farm being one of the best in Black Creek township. He has worked hard and attributes his success to his energy, continued industry and careful attention to every feature, phase and detail of his work.

Mr. Gibson was married on January 21, 1888, to Miss Lydia M. Boyles, a daughter of Archibald Boyles, a resident of this county. Of the five children born of the union three are living, Ernest, Florence and Floyd, and all are still members of the parental family circle. The father is a Prohibitionist in politics and a member of the Christian church in his religious affiliation.

JACOB H. MERRIN.

This venerable and honored citizen of the city of Clarence, where he has maintained his home for more than forty years, and where he was president of the Clarence Savings Bank, has been closely identified with the civic and industrial upbuilding of this section of the state and is one of the substantial capitalists and representative men of Shelby county, where he has ever commanded unqualified popular confidence and regard.

Mr. Merrin is one of the valued citizens contributed to Shelby county by the fine old Buckeye state, as he was born in Monroe county, Ohio, on the 1st of August, 1827, being a son of John and Sallie (Beers) Merrin, the former of whom was born in the state of New Jersey, in 1799, and the latter of whom was a native of Ohio, in which state their marriage was solemnized. John Merrin was one of the sterling pioneers of Ohio, and his vocation throughout his entire active career was that of farming. He passed the closing years of his life in Knox county, Ohio, where he died in 1849, and his wife survived him by a number of years, both having been zealous members of the Presbyterian church and his political support having been given to the Democratic party. Of the nine children of this union the subject of this review is the eldest of the four now living; John N. is a resident of Taylorville, Illinois; Lodema is a resident of the state of Washington; and Mary Elizabeth is the wife of John O. Trimmer, of Mound City, Missouri.

Jacob H. Merrin, whose name initiates this article, was reared to the sturdy discipline of the pioneer farm and his early educational advantages were those afforded in the primitive common schools of Knox county, Ohio, where he was reared to manhood and where he had his full quota of experience in the reclaiming of land in the virgin forest and where he continued to be associated with his father in the work and management of the home farm until he had attained to his legal majority, when he initiated his independent career in connection with the same basic industry, which has ever

constituted the bulwark of our national prosperity. He became the owner of a large tract of land in Knox county, Ohio, and reclaimed and developed a considerable portion of the same. He finally traded about 350 acres of his land for a stock of general merchandise, and for the ensuing two years he conducted a store at Fredericktown, Knox county. In 1865 Mr. Merrin traded his stock of merchandise for 320 acres of land in Monroe county, Missouri, where he devoted his attention to farming and stock-growing until 1876, when he removed to Shelby county and took up his residence in the village of Clarence, where he has maintained his home during the long intervening years. He became extensively engaged in farming and in the raising and buying of cattle, building up a large and prosperous business as a shipper of live stock, and with these lines of industry he continued to be actively identified until 1899, since which time he has lived virtually retired, having an attractive residence in Clarence, where he is also the owner of other valuable property, besides which he retains in his possession 420 acres of excellent farming land, the most of which is located in Clay township, this county. He was president of the Clarence Savings Bank from 1905 to 1911 and gave to the same a personal supervision, having been a potent factor in directing its affairs in such a way as to make the institution one of the solid and prosperous banks of the county. Mr. Merrin has always stood representative of loyal and public-spirited citizenship and has done much to aid in the social and material development of his community. In pol-

itics, though never a seeker of the honors or emoluments of public office, he has ever been arrayed as a staunch advocate of the principles and policies for which the Democratic party stands sponsor, and both he and his wife are active and valued members of the Presbyterian and Baptist churches.

Mr. Merrin has been twice married. In January, 1852, he wedded Miss Hannah Loree, of Knox county, Ohio, who died in 1893, and of their three children two are living, Ellen, who is the wife of William Wilt, of Clarence, and Effie D., who is the wife of James Woods, of Monroe county, this state. In 1897, December 19, Mr. Merrin was united in marriage to Mrs. Mattie Stowe, of Macon county, who now presides over their pleasant home. Mrs. Merrin's maiden name was Mattie Randolph, a native of Kentucky. She came with her parents to Missouri when fifteen years of age. She has one son by her former marriage, Monroe Stowe, of Macon county.

THEODORE W. FEELY.

Enterprising, progressive and successful as a farmer and live stock man, prominent and serviceable in the official life and public affairs of the locality in which he lives, and standing high in the regard of the whole people of Shelby and Monroe counties, among whom he has passed all the years of his life to this time (1910), Theodore W. Feely, of Black Creek township, is justly entitled to the rank he holds in public esteem as a farmer and a citizen, and his excellent reputation as a man of great public spirit and strong devotion to the best

interests of his township, county and state.

Mr. Feely was born in Shelby county, Missouri, on November 11, 1862. He is a grandson of Le Grand Feely, a native of Virginia, and a son of James Le Grand and Mattie E. (Morrison) Feely, the former born in Shenandoah county, Virginia, on March 6, 1835, and the latter a native of Tazewell county, Illinois. The father came to Missouri in 1856 and located at Shelbyville, where he worked at the carpenter trade for ten years. In 1866 he moved to the adjoining county of Monroe, and there was busily occupied in general farming and raising live stock until 1873. In that year he returned to this county and bought 127 acres of wild prairie land, on which he passed the remainder of his days, improving his untamed estate and making it over into an excellent and valuable farm.

His marriage with Miss Mattie E. Morrison took place in 1858, and they became the parents of nine children, all of whom but the fifth in order of birth, a daughter named Carrie Belle, are living. The eight who are living are: John A. and William M., residents of Hotchkiss, Colorado; Theodore W., whose life story is the special theme of this writing; James McKendree, whose home is in Shelbyville; Virginia Edna, the wife of Rev. W. D. Neale of Rocky Ford, Colorado; Charles R., an esteemed resident of this county; Stella, the wife of E. M. O'Bryen, of Shelbyville; and Silas Marvin, who is also a resident of Shelby county. The father was public administrator of Shelby county for a continuous period of twelve years. In political faith and activity he was a member of the