

open to him in their progress and development. He is now a member of the school board.

THOMAS D. MITCHELL.

In the life story and family record of this highly enterprising, progressive and successful farmer, live stock producer and real estate operator of Jackson township, who is one of the leaders in his several lines of activity in this county, run golden threads of personal and general history, and firm fibers of manly achievement, embracing material, intellectual and spiritual conquests of moment in their immediate and of great value in their continuing importance. He is the son of one of the early pioneers, who was also one of the early school teachers in this part of the state. The farm on which he lives was the old camping ground of the Methodists in the early evangelizing work which made them famous and gave them so strong a hold on the people in this and the adjoining counties. He has himself built up a large and profitable business by his own endeavors, which has been and is of great benefit to all Northeastern Missouri. /

Mr. Mitchell was born in Shelby county, Missouri, on April 14, 1862. His father, also named Thomas D. Mitchell, was a native of Virginia and first saw the light of this world in 1835. He came to this portion of Missouri among its earlier settlers and located on a farm near Emden. This farm he worked during the summer months and during the winter he taught school for a number of years. His scholastic contributions to

the advancement of the county were based on very little education acquired in the schools, for he had not much opportunity for such acquisitions. But he was a great reader and student and a very well-informed man. While he taught school, and afterward, he pushed his farming operations and the live stock industry in which he was engaged to large proportions and considerable advantage to himself financially.

He was joined in marriage with Miss Eliza A. Spencer, of Marion county, and they became the parents of five children, three of whom are living: Thomas D.; his brother, Douglas R., a resident of this county; and their sister, Margaret, the wife of Horace Warner, who has her home in Illinois. The father was a firm believer in the principles of the Democratic party and gave that organization earnest and effective support in all its campaigns. In religious connection he was affiliated with the Methodist Episcopal church, South. It is easy to infer, if the matter were left to inference, that he was an important man in the early history of his locality. But this is on record to his credit, and it is manifest from the record that he never neglected a public or private duty or betrayed a trust.

His son Thomas had no educational advantages except those furnished by the district schools of Shelby county. And as soon as he left them he began the career of farming and raising stock, which he is still expanding, and in which he has achieved both a competence and a widespread reputation of credit for himself, and has also conferred upon the region in which he lives substantial com-

mercial benefits. For many years he has given his attention in the stock industry to raising, feeding and dealing in fancy live stock, and he is now known prominently and favorably for the character of his output in all the alert and commanding stock markets of the country, and in some other countries as well. His farm at present comprises 326 acres of superior land, which has been developed by every means known to advanced agriculture and improved with judgment and good taste.

On November 28, 1888, he was married to Miss Bertie Blackburn, a daughter of Samuel Blackburn, now county judge of Shelby county. They have had five children, two of whom are living, Horace T. and Mary M., both residents of Shelby county. The father is a Democrat politically, and belongs to the Court of Honor and the Brotherhood of America fraternally, and takes a cordial interest in all these organizations.

MELCHIOR NOLL.

The great empire of Germany has contributed to the complex social fabric of the United States a most valuable element of citizenship, and from this source our nation has had much to gain and nothing to lose. The sturdy equipoise, practical judgment and well-directed industry that characterizes our citizens of German birth or lineage act as a balance wheel in connection with the adjustment of civic and industrial activities, and even the most casual observer cannot fail to note that thrift and prosperity are in evidence wherever the average citizen

of German extraction and training directs his energies.

Melchior Noll, the only representative of his immediate family in the state of Missouri, is one of the substantial and honored citizens of Shelby county and is a successful business man of the thriving little village of Bethel, where he is engaged in contracting as a brick mason and where he has maintained his home for more than thirty-five years, ever commanding the most unequivocal confidence and esteem in the community.

Mr. Noll was born in Keibersdorf, Germany, on January 6, 1848, and is a son of Melchior and Madeline (Christ) Noll, both of whom passed their entire lives in Germany, where the father followed the vocation of farming during the major portion of his active career. Of the seven children two of the number are residents of America, the subject of this review being the only representative in Missouri, as previously stated. Mr. Noll was reared and educated in Germany, and in 1872, when twenty-three years of age, he severed the gracious ties that bound him to home and fatherland and set forth to win for himself such benefices as could be wrested from the hands of fortune under the auspicious conditions existing in America. He had little in the way of financial resources, but was endowed with ambition, sterling integrity of purpose, diligence and self reliance, so that he came to the new world with an equipment equal to that of many others of his countrymen who have here achieved success and independence. Soon after his arrival in America Mr. Noll made his way westward, and in the sum-