

vancement and improvement, social, intellectual and moral, at work in the community. They are social sunbeams lighting and warming all circles in which they move, and are highly esteemed as among the best and most representative citizens of their city and county. Their pleasant home is a center of refined and gracious hospitality, and a very popular resort for their hosts of friends and admirers. It is also a center of earnest work for the good of the community.

ANDREW J. OLIVER.

The state of Virginia, which gave us a number of our earlier presidents and the ancestors of several of later date, has also sent her sons and daughters abroad throughout the land, quickening the spirit of improvement, brightening and elevating the social atmosphere and giving trend and character to the civil institutions of many different sections. Among those who went abroad from the wide domain of the Old Dominion and came to Missouri in the early days were John L. and Nancy (Warren) Oliver, the parents of Andrew J. Oliver, one of the leading mechanics and merchants of Shelbina.

Mr. Oliver's paternal grandfather, Lemuel Oliver, was a native of Virginia, and his forefathers had been planters in that state from colonial times. His son, John L., was born there on January 29, 1821, and was reared to the occupation of his ancestors. But when "manhood darkened on his downy cheek" he was seized with a spirit of adventure and determined to seek a home and found a name for himself in a distant part of

the country. Accordingly, in 1844, he came to this state and located near Milan in Sullivan county. After a short residence in that county he moved to Lewis county, where he lived a number of years, and then came to Shelby county in 1886. He took up his residence in Shelbina, and here he engaged in farming and teaming, prospering in his work and rising to influence and good standing among the people by the worth of his character, his industry and uprightness and the enterprise and progressiveness of his citizenship.

His first marriage was with Miss Nancy Warren, and by the union they became the parents of twelve children, five of whom are living: John W., Andrew J., George W., Sherman, and Laura, the wife of George Warren. The mother of these children died on July 22, 1882, and in February, 1884, the father married a second wife, being united in this with Miss Pauline Fitzsimmons, who is still living.

Andrew J. Oliver was born on October 13, 1854, in Marion county, Missouri. He grew to manhood on his father's farm, acquiring a good practical mastery of the business, and attended the district school in the neighborhood, where he obtained a limited common school education, his opportunities for regular and lengthy attendance being subject to the necessities of the farm, which required his labor much of the year. The school he attended was in Lewis county, where the family was then living, and after leaving it he learned the blacksmith trade, and then worked at it as a helper at Trenton, Missouri. Soon afterward he acquired the ownership of a shop at

La Belle, this state, which he conducted for a time.

His trade became distasteful to him and he sold his shop, determined to go back farming. He located on a farm in Lewis county, which he lived on and cultivated six years. He tired of this in turn and took up his residence in Shelbyna on August 1, 1890. Here he has ever since been engaged in blacksmithing and dealing in implements, and has been very successful in his operations. His shop is one of the most completely equipped in this part of the state, and the mercantile end of his business is extensive and flourishing. In addition, he owns 480 acres of land in Warren county, North Dakota, and other property of value.

On February 15, 1884, he was united in marriage with Miss Maggie Ellen Harrison, a native of Pennsylvania. They had three children, two of whom are living: Maggie May, the wife of R. A. Newman, and Effie Rebecca, the wife of Richard Highland. Their mother died on August 17, 1899, and on August 9, 1900, the father contracted a second marriage, being united in this with Miss Ellen Hales, a native of Iowa. He and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, South.

In political affairs Mr. Oliver gives his allegiance and support to the principles of the Republican party, and he is loyal to it and energetic and effective in its service, although neither seeking nor desiring any of the honors or emoluments it has to bestow for himself. In fraternal life he is connected with the Modern Woodmen of America, and, although a busy man and much engaged

in his own affairs, he finds time to give his lodge the benefit of his frequent presence at its meetings and his counsel in its management with a view to securing the best possible results for its members. In the public affairs of his city and county he takes an active part, giving his earnest and intelligent aid to every worthy undertaking for their improvement and the substantial good of their people. His citizenship is of an elevated character, and has gained for him the esteem of the whole people wherever he has lived and become known. He is a representative man and altogether worthy of the high regard in which he stands in public estimation.

MARVIN DIMMITT.

Although he has several times changed his residence, occupation and business associates, and covered in his interesting and instructive career farming and mercantile life, banking and official duties, Marvin Dimmitt, now the capable and highly esteemed cashier of the Shelby County State Bank, located at Clarence, has known how to make the changes for his own advantage and advancement, and how to use every means at his command for the benefit of the people around him in promoting their general welfare and helping to magnify their comforts and conveniences in life.

Mr. Dimmitt is a native of Shelby county, Missouri, and was born on a farm near Shelbyville on January 14, 1863. He is a son of Dr. Philip Dimmitt, now deceased, and a brother of Lee and Prince Dimmitt, sketches of whom will be found on other pages of