

ried a second wife, his choice on this occasion being Mrs. Mary (McCloskey) Benson, who was born in Pennsylvania. Mr. Gorby has been a lifelong Democrat in political relations and always an ardent and conscientious worker for the success of his party. He served as a member of the school board many years and rendered other valuable service to the public in many lines of useful effort.

#### OLIVER COMMODORE PERRY.

Clay township in this county numbers among its people some of the most enlightened and progressive farmers in the county—men who are up to the period in every feature of their business and make themselves examples to others by the manner in which they conduct it, showing hitherto unexpected possibilities in this part of the state in the way of agriculture and developing them to their limits, greatly to their own advantage and the benefit of the county and all its inhabitants.

In this number is to be classed Oliver Commodore Perry, who lives in Clarence. He has a model farm south of Clarence and shows himself to be a model farmer. He is a native of Shelby county, born in Salt River township on December 7, 1846, and a son of Richard and Mary (Selsor) Perry, natives of Virginia. The father came to Missouri in 1833 and located in Shelby county, where he was actively and successfully engaged in farming for a number of years. He was a very religious man and took great interest in church work. He and his wife were the parents of ten children, five of whom are living: Martha, the wife of

the late Nathan Byars, of Taylor township, this county; Joseph S., whose home is in Knox county; Oliver C., a resident of Clarence; Delilah, the wife of the late John Colvert, of Oklahoma City; and Katharine, the wife of Wesley Sharpe, of California. Their mother died in 1866 and their father in 1889.

Oliver C. Perry obtained a limited education in the primitive country schools of his boyhood and youth, and after completing their course of study went to Montana, where he was engaged in gold mining for two years. At the end of that period he returned to Shelby county content to seek his advancement in life in the peaceful pursuit of tilling the soil and leave to others the strenuous life of the mining camp, and all other forms of adventurous and exciting existence. He turned his whole attention to farming in Jefferson township. But of late years has turned it over to his son Floyd. He also deals in improved real estate and owns considerable property in Clarence. He pushes his business with every attention to its most exacting requirements, keeping himself well posted as to values and the trend of the market. In both lines of endeavor he has been very successful.

Mr. Perry has also taken an earnest and helpful interest in the welfare of his township and county. He is a member of the Democratic party in his political affiliation and an effective and determined worker for the success of the organization. He rendered the community excellent service as a member of the school board for more than ten years, and in all other ways has done his duty faithfully as an upright and patriotic citizen. In

religious connection he is allied with the Methodist Episcopal Church, South.

On December 19, 1867, Mr. Perry was united in marriage with Miss Ellen Randol, a native of Shelby county, Missouri. They have had seven children, six of whom are living: John H., a resident of Siloam Springs, Arkansas; Emma, the wife of Dr. Gaines, of Las Animas, Colorado; Ora, the wife of Edward Phillips, of Hannibal; Floyd, whose home is in Jefferson township; Leo, the wife of N. P. Turner, of Raton, New Mexico; and Harry, who is living at Clarence. The parents are accounted as among the worthiest and most estimable citizens of Clarence, and the other members of the family, in their several locations and stations in life are daily exemplars of the lessons and training inculcated around the family fireside while they remained under the parental roof-tree and the control of their parents.

#### JAMES RICHARD BAKER.

For more than half a century this progressive farmer and representative citizen of Jefferson township has lived in Shelby county, actively engaged in one of its leading industries, helping to promote its welfare and contributing essentially to the consequence and benefit of its people. He is a native of this state, born in Monroe county on September 25, 1842, and became a resident of Shelby county in 1857, coming to the county with his father at the age of fifteen years.

His parents, Carter and Lucinda (Crim) Baker, were born and reared in

Kentucky, and came to Missouri soon after they reached their maturity. The father located in Monroe county and farmed there until 1857, when he moved to Shelby county. Here he continued his farming operations until his death, in August, 1866. His widow survived him thirty years, dying on June 18, 1896. They were the parents of ten children, five of whom are living: Sarah Elizabeth (Newton), James Richard, Samuel E., Elijah B., and Carter A. At the beginning of the Civil war the father enlisted in a company of Missouri infantry. But he never got far into the active military operations of the great contest, participating only in a few skirmishes.

His son, James Richard Baker, grew to manhood on his father's farm in Monroe and Shelby counties and obtained his education in the district schools. At the beginning of the war, when he was but nineteen years old, he enlisted in Company D, Sharpshooters, and for a time saw very active and strenuous service. He took part in the battles of Lexington, Kirksville, Pleasant Hill and a number of others. But early in his military career he was captured by the other army, and from then until the close of the war languished in a military prison. At the close of the memorable conflict he was released from prison and discharged from the service at Shreveport, Louisiana. He then returned to his Missouri home and resumed his farming operations, beginning a career for himself in this line of endeavor, which he is still expanding. He now owns 189 acres of good land, nearly all of which is under