

and their attractive home is one in which a gracious hospitality is ever in evidence.

#### THE CLARENCE SAVINGS BANK.

In the stability, scope and management of its financial institutions Shelby county has a source of just gratulation, and among the prominent concerns exercising important functions and fortified by all that is reliable in executive control and capitalistic reinforcement, is the Clarence Savings Bank, established in the thriving little city of Clarence.

The Clarence Savings Bank was organized in January, 1905, and was duly incorporated under the laws of the state, with a capital stock of \$20,000, which was increased to \$40,000 at the annual election of the stockholders in January, 1907. The personnel of the original board of directors was as here noted: J. H. Merrin, Burrel Million, Dr. J. W. Megee, B. L. Glahn, H. C. Williams, M. H. Lewis and W. M. Pritchard. The executive officers of the institution have remained the same from the initiation of business until December, 1910, when James O. Stribbling was elected president to succeed J. H. Merrin, who retired on account of his extreme age. Mr. Stribbling enjoys a wide acquaintance throughout the county and his connection with the bank will add to the strength and popularity of that now popular banking house. The other officers are: Burrel Million, vice-president (Mr. Million died in the summer of 1910 and J. B. Shale was elected in January, 1911); and Walter M. Pritchard, cashier. There has been no change in

the directorate save that in April, 1909, upon the death of Dr. Megee, J. B. Shale was chosen as his successor. The present board of directors is composed of the following gentlemen: J. O. Stribbling, J. B. Shale, B. L. Glahn, H. C. Williams, W. M. Pritchard, W. L. Hamrick and M. H. Lewis. The bank now controls a large and representative support and its business is constantly expanding in scope and importance. Sketches of the careers of its president and its cashier may be found on other pages of this volume.

#### HON. NATHANIEL MEACON SHELTON.

Eminent as a jurist, occupying an exalted place in the confidence and esteem of the people as a citizen, and an ornament to any social circle of which he is a part, Hon. Nathaniel Meacon Shelton, of Macon, circuit judge of the Second judicial district of Missouri, is an honor to the state in which he lives, the profession to which he belongs, and high-toned American manhood, of which he is so shining an example.

The Judge was born near Troy, Lincoln county, this state, on March 17, 1851. His parents were Meacon and Anna (Berger) Shelton, natives of Pittsylvania county, Virginia, where the father was an extensive planter and owner of large tracts of land and numerous slaves. They were married in 1828, in their native state, and when they determined to migrate to the then far distant and uncivilized region beyond the Mississippi from their ancestral home, they came to Missouri in 1833, making

the trip overland with teams and bringing with them a good herd of cattle and a number of their negroes. The father entered government land in what is now Lincoln county, which the family lived on, cultivated and improved until 1870, when the parents sold their property and thereafter made their home with their daughters until death called them from their earthly labors. The father died in 1873, aged 76 years, and the mother in 1887, aged 80 years. They were the parents of three sons and six daughters. Of these two sons and one daughter are living, and all are residents of Missouri. The family, like uncounted others, paid its toll to the awful slaughter of the Civil war, one son dying in the military service of the Confederacy, being a surgeon in the Southern army.

The father was a Whig until the party of that name died through the sectional strife in politics which preceded the war, and after that became a Democrat. For more than twenty years he was the presiding judge of the Lincoln county court, and his name is revered by the people of all Missouri as that of a capable and upright jurist and a citizen whose life was above reproach. He was twice married, his first wife, whose maiden name was Ann Evans, dying in her native state of Virginia.

The Shelton family is of English origin, the American progenitors having emigrated from Great Britain to this country early in the seventeenth century. Abraham Shelton, great-grandfather of the present Judge Shelton, was long a member of the Virginia House of Burgesses, in which he served with Pat-

rick Henry and other distinguished men of his day who gave the political history of the world a new direction and wrote their names in illuminated letters on its heroic pages. He was active in the agitation leading up to the Revolution, and was widely and favorably known throughout his own and the other American colonies as a wise counselor, a pure patriot and a fearless defender of his faith.

His son, Crispin Shelton, the judge's grandfather, was also an extensive planter in the Old Dominion, and died on his plantation there after many years of usefulness and elevated manhood. His widow came to Missouri and died some years later at the home of her son, the judge's father. In two of the great commonwealths of this country, members of this family have lived and labored for the general welfare, dignifying and adorning the citizenship of the nation and giving examples worthy of imitation everywhere by their readiness to take their places in every crisis and their fidelity to every duty, whether in private or in public life.

Hon. Nathaniel M. Shelton grew to the age of eighteen on the paternal homestead in Lincoln county. He obtained his scholastic training in private schools, Parker Seminary in Troy, this state, and at William Jewell College, located at Liberty, Missouri, which he attended two years. He then taught school one year, and at the end of his service as a teacher was appointed deputy clerk and recorder of Montgomery county, Missouri. During his two years of wise and faithful service in that capacity he studied law under the direction of Judge Elliott M.

Hughes. In 1874 he entered the law department of the Missouri State University. After passing one year of laborious study in that institution, he was admitted to the bar in 1875 in Montgomery county before Judge Gilchrist Porter at Danville, Missouri.

Judge Shelton began the practice of his profession in the same year in Schuyler county, and continued to practice in that county until his elevation to the bench in 1898. He has been re-elected judge at the end of his term ever since then with a steady growth in popularity and strength before the people, whose confidence he has won and retained by his course on the bench, his demeanor as a man and his breadth of view and progressiveness as a citizen. Prior to his election as judge he served as attorney for the Wabash railroad for a number of years in Schuyler county, rendering the company good and faithful service without contravening the rights or interests of the people. In 1884 he was elected to the lower house of the state legislature, and was re-elected in 1886. In that body he was chairman of the committees on education and jurisprudence, and rendered such excellent service and showed himself so well equipped for the administration of public affairs that in 1888 he was elected to the state senate. In the senate he served capably and with high credit to himself as chairman of the judiciary committee.

In 1902 the judge moved to Macon county, where he has ever since resided. In politics he has been a life-long Democrat, and before his election to the bench was very active in council and on the hustings in the service of his party, hold-

ing firmly to the belief that its political principles and theory of government are the correct ones, and that in their ascendancy in state and nation rests the enduring welfare of the American people, collectively and individually. He has always been one of the progressive men in the judicial district, looking with favor on every worthy enterprise for its improvement and the strengthening of its mental, moral and material forces, and lending all the full measures of aid circumstances allowed him to advance. Fraternally he is a Freemason of the third degree and a member of the order of Modern Woodmen of America; and socially he is a gentleman of the old school, preserving against all innovations the high character and courtly manners of our earlier and, perhaps, better days, not as assumptions or from force of habit, but because they are inherent with him and as much parts of his nature as the organs of his body and the faculties of his mind. Professionally he is in the front rank of Missouri jurists, strictly upright, fair and just, learned in the law, wise in applying and interpreting it, and fearless in enforcing it.

The marriage of Judge Shelton occurred on November 21, 1878, and united him with Miss Belle T. Garges, a native and life-long resident of this state. Of the four children born to them three are living: Mabel, the wife of Wilbur M. French, M. D., of Chicago, Illinois; and Charles W., who is preparing for admission to the bar, and Anna E., both of whom are living at home. All the members of the family belong to the Christian church.