

ing school he worked on his father's farm until 1881, acquiring strength of body and independence of spirit in its useful labors and from his continual communion with nature, and also the self-reliance and resourcefulness which result from conditions that require every man to be ready for emergencies at a moment's notice. In 1881 he moved to this county and during the next three years followed farming and raising live stock on his own account. At the end of that period he took up his residence in Shelbina, where he clerked in a dry goods store for a short time, then engaged in the grocery trade for awhile. He grew tired of this line of merchandising and sold his business in order that he might give his attention to the drug trade.

Mr. Allgaier has been active in promoting the welfare of the town, taking a broad view of its needs and employing all his energy to aid in providing for them. His busy brain and tireless hand have lent their force to every commendable enterprise for improving the city and augmenting the comfort and convenience of its people. He has shirked no duty and gone at nothing worthy of his attention in a half-hearted way. His value as a leading citizen is highly appreciated, and as an evidence of this fact he was elected mayor of the city in April, 1907, and is still filling the office with great credit to himself and decided benefit to the community. In politics he is a Democrat, in fraternal life a Modern Woodman and in religion a Catholic.

In addition to his regular mercantile industry Mr. Allgaier is extensively engaged in feeding cattle and hogs, ship-

ping large numbers of each to many different parts of the country. He is also a stockholder and director of the Old Bank of Shelbina, the oldest bank in the county. On April 19, 1881, he was married to Miss Nancy E. Gaugh, a resident of this county. She is an enthusiastic second to his own generous intellectual hospitality, cordially welcoming and entertaining any good suggestion, no matter where it comes from, and seeking to make the best of it for the good of the people around her. Together they interest themselves in all worthy undertakings whereby the moral, mental and social agencies of the community may be increased in usefulness, augmented in power and rendered more serviceable. They do not say or think this of themselves, and perhaps their modesty may be offended by having it said of them by others. But it is true, nevertheless, and worthy of being recorded here where the makers and builders of the community are commended according to the disposition they have shown and the work they have done.

GEN. J. WILLIAM TOWSON.

The history of Maryland is glorious in peace and war. Her Old Line battalions confronted the scarlet uniform and glittering steel of Great Britain in the Revolution from Bunker Hill to Yorktown. In the Mexican war her gallant soldiery was conspicuous in winning some of the most spectacular victories of that short but decisive conflict. And when the clouds of civil strife burst with destructive fury over our unhappy land in 1861, the valor of her arms and brav-

ery of her sons were manifested on many a sanguinary field under both the Star Spangled Banner and the Stars and Bars. In the civic affairs of the country her statesmen have been farsighted, prudent and progressive. They stood by the Declaration of Independence with all their worldly possessions pledged to its support. It was their firm and far-seeing policy that gave to the country its immense public domain. And in all other public matters they have been recorded on the side of right, justice and humanity.

Gen. J. William Towson, the interesting subject of this brief review, is a native of Maryland, having been born in that state on March 2, 1839, near Williamsport, in Washington county. His parents were William and Louisa (Hammé) Towson, the former a native of Maryland and the latter of Virginia. The father was a merchant and then a farmer and passed the whole of his life in his native state, dying in the region hallowed by his labors in 1868. He was a son of Jacob T. Towson, who also was born and reared in Maryland, where he was an extensive landholder and planter, and also engaged extensively in merchandising, and where he dwelt from the beginning to the end of his life. He was a gentleman of prominence and influence in the state, widely known throughout its extent and highly esteemed by all classes of its people. He was of English ancestry but thoroughly imbued with the spirit of American institutions and devotedly loyal to them according to his predilections and training.

General Towson, the subject of this

sketch, grew to manhood and was educated in Maryland, completing his scholastic training at schools in Baltimore. He began the battle of life for himself as a clerk in a wholesale drug store, and served in this capacity until the great Civil war called to its ranks the manhood of the country to supply two mighty armies for fraternal and sectional strife. Following his convictions he went south—purely a volunteer—willing to offer up his life on the altar of his faith in defense of them. Mr. Towson enlisted in the Confederate army, commanded by the great military chieftain, Gen. Robert E. Lee, as a member of the renowned "Black Horse Troop" of the Fourth Virginia Cavalry. In this command he served to the end of the war, except for a period of about thirty days, when he was a prisoner, having been captured at Warrenton, Virginia, in May, 1863.

The command to which he was attached was that of Gen. Fitz Lee, one of the great fighting divisions of the Southern army that fought its most memorable conflicts between Washington and Richmond, the Confederate capital, battling also at Gettysburg, Sharpsburg and elsewhere. He personally participated in many memorable engagements, such as Brandy Station, Raccoon Ford, Aldie, Hanover, Carlisle and the battle of Gettysburg in Pennsylvania, the Wilderness, Spottsylvania, Cold Harbor, Yellow Tavern, where the superb cavalry leader, Gen. J. E. B. Stuart, fell, Travillion Station, Winchester, the siege of Richmond by Grant, ending in the disastrous conflict at Five Forks and the retreat of what was left of that grand army of Robert E. Lee, known as "The

Army of Northern Virginia," to Appomattox, where he surrendered it to Gen. Grant. The war over, he stayed in Virginia and Maryland until March, 1866.

At the time last mentioned he came to Shelbina as land agent of the Hannibal & St. Joseph Railroad. He has ever since been actively engaged in selling the lands of the railroad company and the real estate business on his own account, and has been very successful in his undertakings. Being a man of very energetic and versatile mental equipment, he has also given attention to other lines of business, has been president of the Commercial Bank, vice-president of the Old Bank of Shelbina, serving it in that capacity for a number of years, and is still one of its directors. All the affairs of the community of his home have had the benefit of his close and conscientious attention and the benefit of his intelligence in council concerning them and his enterprise in promoting whatever was good for the people.

Politically Mr. Towson is a Democrat, and under all circumstances he has taken an active and serviceable interest in the affairs of his party. As one of its leading members he was elected mayor of Shelbina at the first election after the incorporation of the municipality. He was knowing, courageous and independent in the performance of his official duties and gave the city an excellent administration of its affairs. His religious affiliation is with the Presbyterian church and his fraternal allegiance is given to the Masonic order. In this fraternity he is prominent and well known all over the state. He holds the rank of Past Master in the Blue Lodge and has

ascended the mystic ladder of the craft through many of its more elevated divisions; is a Knight Templar and a Noble of the Mystic Shrine. He keeps the memories of his military service alive by prominent membership in the order of United Confederate Veterans, in which he is now commander of the eastern half of Missouri, with the rank of brigadier-general.

Mr. Towson was first married in 1868 to Miss Gabie Combs, the nuptials being celebrated in Shelbina. Her life ended sadly in an accident on the railroad, April 13, 1890. His second marriage occurred October 20, 1891, and in this he became united with Miss Emma Mosher, who was born in Michigan. Mrs. Fowson entered the life eternal in July, 1910. They had no children of their own, but reared an adopted daughter, who is now Mrs. Clyde F. Lloyd, of Chicago.

For forty-three years Mr. Towson has been a resident of Shelbina and contributed to its advancement and the substantial comfort and enduring welfare of its people. He is highly esteemed among them, being regarded as one of the leading and most representative citizens of the community, and one of its most fruitful factors in business, social and general life. Although he has reached the limit of human life as fixed by the sacred writer, he is still hale, vigorous and active, and continues his industrious contributions to the business progress of the community. The record of his peaceful enterprise is written in its development, and the foundation for advancement that he has helped to build is such that it will be creditable to and suf-

ficient for any superstructure that may be reared upon it. Living in it during the formative part of its history, he has done well his part, and has thereby given to those who may come after him a fine example of fidelity, breadth of view and high class citizenship which is well worthy of all imitation.

THOMAS J. RICE.

For a full quarter of a century a resident of Shelby county, and during more than a third of the time a citizen of Shelby, Thomas J. Rice has contributed his full share to the growth and development of this portion of the state and done well his duty as an active and industrious factor for good among this people. He is a native of the state, born in Scotland county on November 7, 1858, and although portions of his life have been passed elsewhere, he has always been deeply interested in the state of his nativity and the enduring welfare of its people.

Mr. Rice is of Kentucky ancestry, his grandfather, Daniel C. Rice, having been born and reared in that state and having lived there many years. He is a son of Jackson A. and Margaret (Roseborough) Rice, the former born in Hardin county, Kentucky, where his life began on December 25, 1835, and the latter in Scotland county in this state. The father accompanied his parents to Missouri when he was but one year old and returned with them to Kentucky when he was four. The family remained in Kentucky three years, and in 1845 again became residents of Missouri, locating

in Scotland county, where the father conducted a flourishing business as a farmer and breeder of live stock, in which his son united with him as soon as he was old enough.

In 1860 the elder Mr. Rice went to California with an older brother. He was very successful in locating good claims in Colorado, having returned that far east after a short stay in California, and returned to this state in 1863 with money enough to buy a farm near that of his father in Scotland county. He took up his residence on this farm, but it brought him a trying existence. Not only was the country wild and undeveloped, and therefore difficult to bring to cultivation and fruitfulness, but the state militia was exceedingly troublesome during the Civil war. The force was out of commission and many of its members, realizing that they were not responsible to any definite authority, roamed at will and committed continual depredations on unprotected settlers. Horses and cattle were stolen and run off by them, outhouses and even dwellings and personal violence was sometimes inflicted. The Rice family bore its troubles bravely, enduring the wrongs it suffered with fortitude if not always with patience and forbearance, and at length conditions greatly improved for it.

In 1867 the family moved to Clark county and located on a farm which it occupied and operated until 1903. when the father moved to Howell county, where he now resides. He was married in 1857 to Miss Margaret Roseborough, of Scotland county, this state. They became the parents of one child, their son,