

paign, the best interests of the public, and casting his vote in accordance with his judgment on that ground. In fraternal life he is a member of the Masonic order, and in religion his allegiance is given to the Missionary Baptist church. He has been very successful in his business, has shown himself to be an excellent citizen in every respect, and has won the lasting regard and confidence of the whole people in the north-eastern part of this state and wherever else he has lived.

KIM BETHARDS.

All of the fifty-five years that have passed to this time (1910) in the life of Kim Bethards, one of the substantial, prosperous and progressive farmers and live stock breeders of Black Creek township, have been spent in Shelby county, and all of the number since he was first able to work have been devoted to the promotion of the two leading industries of the county in which he is now engaged. He was born in the county on November 8, 1844, and has never lived in any other county than Shelby, and never far from the locality of his present farm of 193 acres near Shelbyville.

Mr. Bethards is of Maryland ancestry, his grandfather and his parents, Joshua and Matilda (Moore) Bethards, all having been born and reared in that state. The father came to Missouri in 1835 and located on a farm of 160 acres near Shelbyville, and there he farmed and raised and fed live stock for the markets, steadily enlarging his possessions in land and extending his stock industry as his prosperity increased, until at the

time of his death he owned 900 acres and carried on one of the most active and considerable trades in stock in that part of the county.

He and his wife were the parents of thirteen children, four of whom are living: Adeline, the wife of Robert Douglas, of Shelbyville; Isaac, who resides in Henderson county, Illinois; and Zedoc and Kim, both of whom are residents of this county. The father was a pronounced and active Democrat in political faith and allegiance, and a man of great enterprise and zeal in behalf of all commendable projects for the improvement and development of his township and county. He found them almost at the dawn of their corporate existence and not far removed from the frontier stage of their history. He left them well advanced in material progress, dotted with the homes of an enterprising and sturdy people, determined to make the most of the opportunities for advancement their fertile acres afforded, and with all the elements of mental, moral and spiritual life well established. And to this result he and his wife contributed extensively and substantially. He died on March 5, 1875, and she on May 11 in the same year.

Their son Kim, the interesting subject of this brief sketch, obtained his education in Shelbyville, and after leaving school at once began farming on 200 acres of land near that town. From that farm he moved in 1878 to the one of 193 acres which he now owns and occupies. From the first planting of his plowshare in the responsive soil of this county he has been continuously and profitably engaged in general farming and raising

and feeding live stock. He has been very successful in both lines of activity, and his success is due to his energy, capacity and general good management. He has been a student of his business in all its details, and has applied the results of his reading, reflection and practical observation with skill and judgment, expanding his intelligence and broadening his views as the years have rolled away in their course. He is now considered one of the best and most practical farmers and stock men in his township.

On December 23, 1873, Mr. Bethards was united in marriage with Miss Ann Eliza Jordan, who was born in Michigan. They have had nine children, eight of whom are living: Minnie, Frank, Omer, Louis and Elva, all of whom are still at home with their parents; Albert, the third in the order of birth, who is a resident of South Dakota, and Roy and Ray, whose homes are also in South Dakota. In political affairs the father follows the fortunes of the Democratic party and is active and serviceable in his support of its principles and candidates, although he is not desirous of any of its honors or emoluments for himself. Mrs. Bethards is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, South.

ELIAS A. McBRIDE.

The fine old state of Virginia has made her name glorious in history by her production of many of the most distinguished men this country has known, and also by rearing on her historic soil a whole race of chivalric and high-minded men and graceful, cultivated and elegant women.

From her prolific and teeming population and liberal institutions have gone forth in addition hosts of sturdy and self-reliant emigrants to other states, which they have helped to build up and develop in every element and feature of industrial, commercial and civil power.

In this last class belongs Elias A. McBride, one of the sterling yeomanry of this county, and the family from which he sprang, whose activities in this section of the state form part of the productive force which has been at work in developing its resources during the last three generations. He was born on October 13, 1850, in that portion of Virginia which was torn from the mother state by the stern arbitrament of the Civil war. There also was the place of nativity of his grandfather, Stephen McBride, and his parents, James J. and Ellen (Horn) McBride. He came to Missouri with his parents in 1858, and the family located in Sheridan county, where the father was actively engaged in general farming and raising live stock until the beginning of the Civil war. When that memorable conflict between the sections of our torn and distracted country began he went into the Confederate army as a drill master. But before he served any great length of time he was captured by the opposing forces, and from then until his death, which occurred in 1863, he languished in a Federal military prison in St. Louis, and there he died. The mother was spared the sadness of knowing his fate, for she died in 1860, more than a year before his military service began.

They were the parents of six children,