

was born in Pennsylvania and the latter in Ireland. They are now residents of Shelby county, where Mr. Baker is a successful farmer. Mr and Mrs. Burckhardt have one child, Burdett Frederick, who was born in December, 1904.

RICHARD COLLIER.

The subject of this sketch is one of the best known and most highly esteemed citizens of his native county and city, and is at the present time incumbent of the position of postmaster of Shelbyville, of which city he was formerly mayor and in which he has held other offices of trust, betokening the high regard of the people of the community in which practically his entire life has been passed. He is a member of one of the old and honored pioneer families of this section of the state, and thus there are many elements which render consistent a review of his personal career and genealogical data in this publication.

Richard Collier was born in Shelbyville, Missouri, November 25, 1849, and is a son of James M. and Catherine B. (Gooch) Collier, both of whom were born in the state of Kentucky, whence their respective parents moved to Missouri in an early day. William Collier, grandfather of the subject of this review, was likewise a native of Kentucky, and he passed the closing years of his life in Grandy county, Missouri, where he developed a farm and was a well known pioneer. James M. Collier was reared to maturity in Missouri, where he received a common-school education and where he learned in his youth the trade of brickmason, which he followed for

some time, later becoming a successful contractor in connection with his trade. Just before the inception of the Civil war he settled on a farm near Oakdale, Shelby county, where the family home was maintained for several years. He finally took up his residence in Shelbyville, where he built up a successful contracting business in the erection of brick buildings and other structures, and he was among the early incumbents of the office of sheriff of Shelby county. He was one of the argonauts who made their way to California during the memorable gold excitement of 1849 and succeeding years, and he made a very successful venture in taking mules across the plains to the mining districts, where he disposed of the animals at a large profit. He was identified with gold mining in California about four years and was very successful in his operation's.

James Collier manifested unqualified loyalty to the Union at the time of the Civil war. He enlisted in 1861, in response to President Lincoln's first call for volunteers, becoming a member of a Missouri regiment and continuing in active service during practically the entire period of the great internecine conflict, within which he participated in a large number of the important battles on the sanguinary fields of the South. He was made captain of his company, and his regiment was commanded by Col. B. F. Benjamin. He continued throughout life to manifest a deep interest in his old comrades, though forgetting the animosities engendered of the great war between the states, and he was a popular and honored member of the Grand Army of the Republic. In

politics he was aligned as a staunch supporter of the cause of the Republican party from the time of its organization until his death, and he held membership also in the Masonic fraternity. He was a man of exalted integrity of character, was a devout and zealous worker in connection with religious activities and was one of the pillars of the Christian church in Shelbyville, of which he was a charter member and in which he served as an elder for many years prior to his death, which occurred in the year 1899, his devoted wife having preceded him to the life eternal by more than a decade. He was the foremost factor in connection with the founding of the church mentioned and was active in all departments of its work. He ordered his life upon the highest plane of honor and fidelity, and held the fullest measure of popular confidence and regard. He was a successful business man and was a stockholder of the Citizens' Bank of Shelbyville at the time of his demise. Of his ten children, five are now living, namely: Susan, who is the wife of Henry G. Miller, of Shelby county; Sarah, who is the wife of Oliver P. Robinson, of Quincy, Illinois; Laura, who is the wife of M. E. McMaster, likewise of Quincy, Illinois; Richard, who is the immediate subject of this sketch; and Edwin E., who is a representative farmer of Shelby county.

Richard Collier is indebted to the schools of Shelbyville for his early educational discipline, and after leaving school he was associated with his father in the work and management of the home farm for two years. He then served a virtual apprenticeship at the carpenter's trade, in which he became a

skilled workman, and he followed the work of his trade, doing a general contracting business, for a period of about six years, after which he conducted a meat market in Shelbyville for about five years. Upon retiring from this line of enterprise he established himself in the furniture business in this city, continuing the same until September, 1902, when he became a carrier on one of the rural free mail delivery routes from Shelbyville, continuing to be thus engaged for five years, at the expiration of which, in February, 1908, under the administration of President Roosevelt, he received his commission as postmaster of Shelbyville, of which office he has since continued incumbent. He has done much to improve the service of this office and his administration of its affairs has met with marked popular commendation. Mr. Collier has long been influential in public affairs of a local order and is known as a loyal and progressive citizen. He served some years as a member of the board of aldermen of Shelbyville, was city treasurer for four years, and in 1896 was elected mayor, remaining in tenure of this chief executive office of the municipal government for two terms. His political proclivities are indicated in the staunch allegiance which he accords to the Republican party, and he has been an active worker in its cause. He and his wife are zealous members of the Christian church and he is affiliated with the Shelbyville lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

On November 24, 1879, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Collier to Miss Martha Bigelow, who was born in the state of Indiana and who was a child at the

time of the family removal to Missouri. She is a daughter of the late William Bigelow, who was a successful farmer of Shelby county. Mr. and Mrs. Collier became the parents of nine children, all of whom are living except two, one who died at the age of thirteen years and the other an infant. Edwin W. is now a resident of Washington; Earl Sheldon is engaged in merchandising in Shelby county; Morte maintains his home in the mining city of Anaconda, Montana; and Gleeta, Maude, Jeanette and Clara remain at the parental home.

PRINCE DIMMITT.

The adaptability of the American mind to various pursuits and different lines of thought and action is well illustrated in the career of Prince Dimmitt, of Shelbyville. He has been successively a farmer, business man and banker, and has been masterful in each undertaking, compelling Fortune to wait upon his will and minister to his triumphs by the force of his character, his business acumen and his comprehensive breadth and readiness of view. He has been quick to see and alert to seize opportunities for his advancement, and has had the ability and the industry to make the most of them when he has embraced them.

Mr. Dimmitt was born in Cooper county, Missouri, on July 30, 1860, and was brought to Shelby county when he was but six months old, his parents becoming residents of this county at that time. He is a son of Dr. Dimmitt, now deceased, a sketch of whose life will be found elsewhere in this volume. Destined for an exalted place in the financial and busi-

ness circles of the county. Mr. Dimmitt grew to manhood among its people and was educated in the public schools of Shelbyville, completing the high school course and being graduated from the high school in that city.

After leaving school he turned his attention to farming, although he had a leaning to business pursuits. But he lost nothing by the venture, as he applied his business instincts to his farming operations and made them highly successful. In 1878 he entered into partnership with his older brother Frank in the management of an extensive farm, and they conducted its operations together until 1881. He then bought his brother's interest in the property, and from that time until 1898 farmed alone. He made his farm one of the best in the county and reaped the reward of his enterprise and industry in doing this when he came to sell the place a few months ago, receiving \$112.50 an acre for it, the highest price ever paid for farm land in the part of the county in which it is located.

In 1893 he was chosen vice-president of the Bank of Shelbyville, and five years later gave up farming and removed to Shelbyville, where he has ever since resided. In 1902 he rose by the choice of the directors to the presidency of the bank, and he has ably and progressively filled that position until the present time (1911). Under his vigorous and enterprising management the institution has made great progress, adding considerably to the volume of its business and the number and consequence of its patrons. It is known as one of the soundest and best managed financial institutions in this part of the state and has a high rank