

essentially progressive and liberal as a citizen, and, though he has never desired the honors or emoluments of political office, he is a stalwart advocate of the principles and policies of the Republican party. He is affiliated with the local organizations of the Knights of Pythias and Modern Woodmen of America.

On the 6th of January, 1887, Mr. Melson was united in marriage to Miss Amanda J. Livingston, who was born and reared in Shelby county, and who is a daughter of James D. Livingston, a representative farmer of this favored section of the state. Mr. and Mrs. Melson became the parents of ten children, of whom eight are living, namely: Map Pearl, who is now serving as postmistress at Lentner, in which office she succeeded her father; and Raymond Shelby, Claude M., Beulah, Lew, Pauline, Theodore Eldon, and Mark.

HARRISON EATON.

One of the venerable and highly honored native sons of Shelby county, with whose history the family name has been identified since the early pioneer days, before the organization of the county, is now living virtually retired in the attractive little city of Shelbina. He has contributed his quota to the civic and industrial development and progress of the county, as did also his honored father, and here he was long and prominently identified with farming and stock-growing, in connection with which lines of industry he gained distinctive success, so that he is today able to enjoy the generous comforts and the gracious environment which are the just recompense

for former years of earnest toil and endeavor. Mr. Eaton is one of the well known citizens of the county and to him is given the unreserved confidence and esteem of the community in which he has passed his entire life thus far. He is a representative of the third generation of the family in America, as his grandfather, Jacob Eaton, was a native of England, whence he came to America when a young man, becoming an early settler of Kentucky, and later coming to Missouri, where he passed the closing years of his life.

Harrison Eaton was born on the homestead farm, in what is now Salt River township, Shelby county, Missouri, on the 4th of April, 1838, and is a son of George and Rebecca (Anderson) Eaton, both of whom were born and reared in Kentucky, where their marriage was solemnized in the year 1829. The father was born on the 3d of May, 1803, and his death occurred in February, 1871. His wife survived him by several years. They became the parents of ten children, of whom five are living, all being residents of Shelby county. Of the number the subject of this review is the eldest; George W. is a successful farmer in Salt River township; Martha A. is the wife of Ernest Harding; Sarah E. is the wife of William Cochran; and Nancy E. is the wife of James R. Baker. In politics the father was a staunch Democrat and both he and his wife were consistent members of the Baptist church.

George Eaton was reared and educated in Kentucky and upon coming to Missouri he numbered himself among the pioneers of Shelby county, where he settled before the county had been or-

ganized as such. He secured 160 acres of land and set to himself the task of reclaiming the same to cultivation. He labored with all of energy and ambition and was not denied a due reward, as he became one of the representative farmers and stock-growers of the county and here accumulated a valuable landed estate of about 500 acres, which he devised to his children in his will. He continued to reside on his old homestead farm until his death, which occurred in 1871, as has already been noted in this article. His cherished and devoted wife was summoned to the life eternal about 1880, and the names of both should be permanently recorded on the roll of the honored pioneers of Shelby county, to whose social and material development they contributed to the full measure of their powers and opportunities.

Harrison Eaton, whose name initiates this sketch, was reared to maturity on the old home farm, and he continued to be actively associated in its work and management until he had attained to the age of thirty-two years. His educational advantages were such as were afforded in the common schools of the locality and period, and his discipline in this line was completed in the village schools of Shelbyville, the county seat. He later amplified his fund of scholarship and general information through private study and well directed reading, and while a young man he was ordained to the ministry of the Baptist church. He gave zealous and devoted service in the work of this church during a period of about twenty years, and in the meanwhile continued his active identification with agricultural pursuits. In 1870 he retired

from the work of the ministry, and thereafter he gave his undivided attention to farming and stock-growing, in which he is still interested, though he has lived essentially retired in the village of Shelbyville since 1895. He has about twenty-five acres of land within the limits of this attractive town, and retains the ownership of his well improved farm of 220 acres in Shelby county, to which he gives a general supervision. He is one of the substantial men and honored citizens of his native county, and here he has ever held the unqualified confidence and high regard of all who know him. Generous and tolerant and imbued with a kindly interest in his fellow men, he has made his life count for good in all its relations, and he has been one of those earnest and loyal citizens who have witnessed and contributed to the upbuilding of the county as one of the most favored sections of the state of Missouri. In politics Mr. Eaton has been arrayed as a staunch supporter of the cause of the Republican party from practically the time of its inception, and both he and his wife have been most zealous in the work of the Baptist church, in whose ministry he served with much of consecrated zeal and devotion.

When the dark cloud of civil war cast its gruesome pall over the national horizon, Mr. Eaton was loyal to the cause of the Union, and he was among the first in Missouri to tender his services as a soldier in the federal ranks. In January, 1861, he enlisted in the company commanded by Capt. John F. Benjamin, and this company became an integral part of the Missouri Volunteer Infantry. He continued in service with this com-

mand until April, 1863, when he received his honorable discharge, by reason of physical disability. His certificate of disability was signed by Dr. Gilroay Post, who was surgeon of the federal hospital at Cape Girardeau, Missouri. Mr. Eaton took part in the engagements at Kirksville and Cape Girardeau, was present at the capture of the famous guerilla, Joseph Shelby, and took part in many skirmishes and other minor engagements. He is now a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, and is also affiliated with the Masonic fraternity.

On October 25, 1870, Mr. Eaton was united in marriage to Miss Mary Ann Stalcup, who was born and reared in Shelby county, where her father, the late William Stalcup, was an early settler. The three children of this union are: George W., who is a resident of Idabel, Oklahoma; Anna M., who is the wife of Chester R. O'Neal, also of Idabel, Oklahoma; and Ethel E., who is the wife of Thomas M. Wood, a successful farmer of Shelby county.

THEODORE P. MANUEL.

The honored president of the Citizens' Bank of Clarence is a native son of Shelby county, a member of one of its sterling pioneer families and a representative citizen and business man of this favored section of the state. Mr. Manuel was born on the old homestead farm of his father, in Taylor township, this county, and the date of his nativity was January 19, 1859. His father, the late Preston Manuel, was born in Kentucky on the 6th of March, 1820, and was twelve years of age at the time of his

parents' removal to Missouri, in 1832. Here he was reared to manhood and received such advantages as were afforded in the somewhat primitive pioneer schools, and he eventually became one of the extensive farmers and stock growers and essentially influential citizens of Shelby county, where he continued to be actively identified with the great basic art of agriculture until his death, which occurred on the old homestead which was his original place of settlement, having been summoned to the life eternal on the 23d of September, 1876. He was first married to Miss Hulda McAfee, who died one year later, and his second union was with Miss Adaline McAfee, a sister of his first wife. She was born in the state of Kentucky and her parents were numbered among the worthy pioneers of Shelby county. She was summoned to the life eternal on the 28th of April, 1865, and of her four children three are now living—Oscar A., who is a representative farmer of Shelby county; Theodore P., who is the immediate subject of this review, and Warren E., who is engaged in farming in this county. In December, 1868, Preston Manuel contracted a third marriage, having been then united to Mrs. Delilah J. Garnett, whose maiden name was Delilah J. Wright, and who survives him, as do also their three daughters, all of whom reside in the city of Clarence. Mary E. remains with her widowed mother, Cora B. is now Mrs. Bart Hollyman and Lula P. resides at the maternal home. In politics the father was a staunch adherent of the Democratic party, taking a loyal interest in public affairs and being known as a citizen of sterling character, so that he