

representative of all that is best among them.

Mr. Dale was born on January 16, 1849, in Randolph county, Missouri, and is a grandson of Philip and son of Jacob Dale. The latter was also a native of Missouri and one of its prosperous and progressive farmers. He was an active, working Democrat during the whole of his mature life, zealous in the service of his party and also in reference to every form of public improvement of the locality in which he had his home. The mother was Miss Minerva Chitwood before her marriage to Mr. Dale, a daughter of Chedwick Chitwood, who was born and reared in Virginia and came to this state in early life. Mr. and Mrs. Dale had seven children, six of whom are living: Francis M., John William, George A., Mary Catherine, the wife of Samuel Bland, of Randolph county, Missouri; Sarah N., the wife of William Faught; and Lucy Margaret, the wife of Frank Powers, of La Plata, Missouri. The mother of these children died in 1863, and the father afterward married Miss Nancy Hines. Six children were born of this union, all of whom are living. They are: Thomas B., Lewis F., James M., Elizabeth, Barbara and Alice. The father died in 1875.

Francis Marion Dale was reared on his father's farm in Randolph county and obtained his education in the district schools of that county, but his attendance at them was irregular and only for a few years. After leaving school he worked on farms in the neighborhood of his home as a hired hand for a time. He then engaged in operating a saw mill for two years. At the end of that time he

turned his attention to farming for himself in Randolph county, remaining there and following that occupation eight years. In 1882 he moved to Shelby county and located on the farm in Jefferson township on which he now lives. He has been actively, successfully and progressively engaged in farming ever since, and in connection with his farming operations has carried on an extensive and profitable general live stock industry. His farm comprises 120 acres of superior land and he has it all under cultivation, well improved and brought to a high state of productiveness.

Mr. Dale was married in December, 1871, to Miss Maria J. Humphrey, a daughter of J. J. and Lavinia J. Humphrey, who came to this state from North Carolina. The children born in the Dale household numbered eight, and six of them are living: Homer C., Oliver C., Charles D., Beulah F., the wife of William J. Stewart, of Maud, in this county; Lora and Hugh J. In politics the father is a Democrat, and in religious connection a member of the Christian church. To both party and church he is true and faithful, working for the welfare of each to the limit of his circumstances and rendering both excellent service. He served as a member of the school board more than ten years. He has been successful in his business, upright in his living, energetic and square in his citizenship and true and zealous in every other relation in life, and is universally esteemed as a man.

SAMUEL GORBY.

Having reached the patriarchal age of four-score years and over, the reflec-

tions of this venerable man are mainly retrospective. But the retrospect must be pleasing, as he has lived worthily and usefully, and has contributed essentially and considerably to the betterment of the people among whom his years of active industry were passed, and is now giving an excellent example of true and upright manhood and elevated citizenship to the men younger than he is who know him, all of whom hold him in the highest esteem for what he is, what he has been and what he has done.

Mr. Gorby is a native of Stark county, Ohio, born on May 4, 1829. His father, Jonathan Gorby, was born in the state of Delaware. He was a farmer all his life from youth, following this occupation in the state of his nativity and that of his adoption. In early life he moved to Ohio, when that now great commonwealth was a part of the Northwest Territory, and was still largely under the dominion of its savage tenants, who had held it in thrall for many generations, with much of its soil still virgin to the plow and the greater part of its vegetation only the wild growth of unpruned Nature. He created a good farm in the wilderness and on it reared to maturity all of his nine children. His wife, whose maiden name was Anne Davis, was a native of Virginia. Of their offspring their son Samuel is the only one now living. The mother died in 1833 and the father in 1841.

Samuel Gorby attended the primitive country schools in the vicinity of his home and later received instruction from a private tutor. His education was far in advance of that of his youthful companions, and after its completion he

taught school in his native state for a number of years. In 1854 he followed the tide of migration to the farther West and came to Missouri. Locating in the city of Hannibal, he resumed his vocation as a school teacher and followed it there for about three years. In 1857 he moved to Shelby county and in Jefferson township he continued his ministrations to the welfare of his fellow men as a teacher, doing something in this line also in Monroe county. In all he was engaged in teaching for a period of forty years. After giving up his work as a teacher he devoted his energies for a long time to dealing in live stock. But for a number of years he has not been engaged in any active work. The rest he is enjoying has been well earned, and it is a source of great gratification to his countless friends and admirers that he has good health and continued vigor to enjoy the ease which is now his portion. His long day of toil was full of adventure and excitement. It laid him under many privations and exactions. It brought him during a great part of it only the crude and homely comforts of the frontier. But his evening is mild and benignant, and all the more agreeable and enjoyable because of the strenuous life he was called upon to endure during its period of labor—the heat and burden of the day.

Mr. Gorby was married in 1854 to Miss Eliza Firestine, also a native of Ohio. They had seven children, all of whom grew to maturity, but only two are now living. They are Ethel, the wife of John Swearingen, of California, and John, who lives in this county. Their mother died in 1884, and in 1888 the father mar-

ried a second wife, his choice on this occasion being Mrs. Mary (McCloskey) Benson, who was born in Pennsylvania. Mr. Gorby has been a lifelong Democrat in political relations and always an ardent and conscientious worker for the success of his party. He served as a member of the school board many years and rendered other valuable service to the public in many lines of useful effort.

OLIVER COMMODORE PERRY.

Clay township in this county numbers among its people some of the most enlightened and progressive farmers in the county—men who are up to the period in every feature of their business and make themselves examples to others by the manner in which they conduct it, showing hitherto unexpected possibilities in this part of the state in the way of agriculture and developing them to their limits, greatly to their own advantage and the benefit of the county and all its inhabitants.

In this number is to be classed Oliver Commodore Perry, who lives in Clarence. He has a model farm south of Clarence and shows himself to be a model farmer. He is a native of Shelby county, born in Salt River township on December 7, 1846, and a son of Richard and Mary (Selsor) Perry, natives of Virginia. The father came to Missouri in 1833 and located in Shelby county, where he was actively and successfully engaged in farming for a number of years. He was a very religious man and took great interest in church work. He and his wife were the parents of ten children, five of whom are living: Martha, the wife of

the late Nathan Byars, of Taylor township, this county; Joseph S., whose home is in Knox county; Oliver C., a resident of Clarence; Delilah, the wife of the late John Colvert, of Oklahoma City; and Katharine, the wife of Wesley Sharpe, of California. Their mother died in 1866 and their father in 1889.

Oliver C. Perry obtained a limited education in the primitive country schools of his boyhood and youth, and after completing their course of study went to Montana, where he was engaged in gold mining for two years. At the end of that period he returned to Shelby county content to seek his advancement in life in the peaceful pursuit of tilling the soil and leave to others the strenuous life of the mining camp, and all other forms of adventurous and exciting existence. He turned his whole attention to farming in Jefferson township. But of late years has turned it over to his son Floyd. He also deals in improved real estate and owns considerable property in Clarence. He pushes his business with every attention to its most exacting requirements, keeping himself well posted as to values and the trend of the market. In both lines of endeavor he has been very successful.

Mr. Perry has also taken an earnest and helpful interest in the welfare of his township and county. He is a member of the Democratic party in his political affiliation and an effective and determined worker for the success of the organization. He rendered the community excellent service as a member of the school board for more than ten years, and in all other ways has done his duty faithfully as an upright and patriotic citizen. In