

WILLIAM M. HAWKER.

Mr. Hawker has been a resident of Missouri since his childhood days and has been long and prominently identified with the great basic industry of agriculture in this section of the state. In connection with this important line of enterprise he gained large and substantial success, becoming one of the large landowners and influential citizens of Marion county, and continuing to reside on his fine homestead farm until February, 1904, when he removed to the attractive little city of Hunnewell, Shelby county, where he owns and occupies a commodious and modern residence and where he is living virtually retired.

Mr. Hawker has the distinction of being a native of the island of Jamaica, West Indies, where his father was a resident for a few years after his immigration from Germany. Mr. Hawker is a son of Frederick and Louise (Ginter) Hawker, both of whom were born and reared in Germany, where their marriage was solemnized, in the city of Gutenberg. In 1844 they came from the island of Jamaica to the United States, and soon afterward established their home in Marion county, Missouri. The father purchased land in Warren township and thereafter gave his attention principally to farming and stock-growing until his death, which occurred in 1869. His wife passed to the life eternal in 1871, and both were earnest members of the Lutheran church. Of their eight children six are now living, namely: William M., who is the immediate subject of this review; Mary, who is the wife of Finley Mitchell, of Marion county; Elizabeth,

who is the wife of William Barnett, of the same county; John, who is the owner of a valuable ranch in the famous Bitter-root valley of Montana; Fannie, who is the wife of Joseph Freeland, of North Dakota; and Etta, who is the wife of Edward Ettings, of LaBelle, Missouri. The father espoused the cause of the Republican party at the time of its organization and thereafter continued a stalwart supporter of its cause until his death. During the Civil war he was loyal to the Union and did all in his power to aid in its preservation.

William M. Hawker was about two years of age at the time of the family removal to Marion county, Missouri, where he was reared to manhood on the home farm and received a common school education, which he has since effectually amplified through his association with the practical activities of life and through his well directed reading. During his entire active career he never abated his allegiance to agriculture and its allied industry of stock-raising, and he directed his energies with marked discrimination and ability, so that he received the most generous returns from his efforts. He accumulated a fine landed estate of 320 acres, and the same was as productive and valuable land as can be found in this favored section of the state. His old homestead, now owned by one of his sons, comprises 316 acres. His residence is one of the most modern and attractive in the village and is surrounded by grounds comprising about three acres and twenty acres nearby. Mr. Hawker is a stockholder and director of the Farmers' & Merchants' Bank of Hunnewell, in politics he gives a staunch

adherence to the Republican party, and both he and his wife are zealous members of the Baptist church, in which he is a deacon. During the Civil war Mr. Hawker was thoroughly in sympathy with the cause of the Union, and in 1862 he enlisted in the home guard, being a member of the company stationed at Palmyra, this state, under command of Captain Lear.

On the 11th of February, 1861, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Hawker to Miss Sarah F. Couch, who was born and reared in Marion county, this state, where her father, Marshall Couch, was an early settler. Mr. and Mrs. Hawker became the parents of eight children and all are living except one son that died. Mollie is the wife of Harry Huggins, of Shelbina, this county; Charles is engaged in farming in Salt River township; Elvira is the wife of Thomas Burdett, of Sharpsburg, Missouri; Frederick has charge of the old homestead farm, in Salt River township, Marion county; Vernie is engaged in farming in Shelby county; Myrtle is the widow of Charles Enyard and now resides in the city of St. Louis; and Gertrude is the wife of James Freshwater, a farmer of Marion county.

GEORGE E. STEWART.

All of the forty-two years of life which George E. Stewart, one of the enterprising, progressive and successful farmers living near Clarence, has lived from his birth, on January 13, 1868, to the present time (1910), have been passed in Shelby county, and those of them since he arrived at years of discretion and productiveness have been fruitful in good both

for himself and the locality in which he has spent them. For he has been one of the reliable men in promoting every form of public improvement and developing every resource of value whom his township has furnished to aid in pushing forward the car of progress in the agricultural, industrial and commercial life of the county.

Mr. Stewart was born in the county and has never felt any strong inclination to wander beyond its borders. He obtained his education in its public schools, grew to manhood on one of its fertile farms, married one of its esteemed daughters, and has, ever since he began the battle of life for himself, been a contributor directly and essentially to its welfare and the benefit of its people. He is a son of William and Elizabeth (Lasley) Stewart, natives of Ireland. The father was born in 1812, came to this country when he was a young man and located for a time in Pennsylvania. He then came West with the tide of migration that was surging toward the Rocky mountains and settled in Shelby county, Missouri, where he passed the remainder of his days. He was actively and profitably engaged in farming and raising live stock in this county until 1887. In that year he retired from active pursuits and from then until his death, on February 9, 1899, lived with his son George. In connection with his farming operations he also did considerable work at his trade as a stone mason in the neighborhood of his home. Among other buildings on which he worked, which are of historic interest, was the old Bethel mill, which was long a landmark in the region and a rallying place for the whole countryside,