

volume this all too brief review of the career of Mr. Gillaspy, who has here lived and labored to goodly ends and who here commands a secure place in the confidence and regard of all who know him.

LAFAYETTE J. JOHNSTON.

In section 28, Taylor township, is located the well improved homestead farm of Mr. Johnston, who is entitled to consideration in this work as one of the representative farmers and stock-growers of Shelby county and as a citizen of distinctive loyalty and public spirit.

Lafayette J. Johnston is a scion of staunch Scottish ancestry, his grandfather, John Johnston, having been a native of Scotland and having come from the land of the hills and heather to America when young. He passed the major portion of his life in the dominion of Canada, where he continued to maintain his home until his death. His son Jacob W., father of him whose name initiates this review, was born in Weller county, province of Ontario, Canada, on June 28, 1836, and there he was reared and educated. He was there identified with agricultural pursuits and there also became a skilled workman at the trade of carpenter. He continued his residence in Weller county, Canada, until 1868, when he came with his family to Shelby county, Missouri, and secured a tract of land in Taylor township, where he engaged in farming, in connection with which he found much requisition for his services as a carpenter, having erected a number of houses and other buildings in this township. Here he continued to maintain his home until 1880,

when he removed to Elkhart county, Indiana, where he became a successful farmer and where he passed the residue of his life, which reached its close in 1900. In 1860 was solemnized his marriage to Miss Lydia Nygh, who likewise was born and reared in the Dominion of Canada and who is still living in Elkhart county, Indiana, both having been zealous members of the Mennonite church and having well exemplified in their daily lives the simple and noble faith they thus professed. They became the parents of ten children, of whom eight are now living, namely: Lafayette J., who is the immediate subject of this sketch; Clara, who is the wife of Jacob Mishler, a resident of Elkhart county, Indiana; Ida, who is the wife of Albert Brady, of New Paris, that state; Susan, who is the wife of George Walker, of Chicago, Illinois; Isaiah, who is a resident of Nappanee, Indiana; Esther, who is the wife of Elmer Grubb, of Los Angeles, California; Jacob, who maintains his home in Elkhart county, Indiana; and Mary, who is the wife of Leonard Stackhouse, of Nappanee, that state. It will thus be seen that the immediate family circle now finds representation in divers sections of the Union.

Lafayette J. Johnston, the immediate subject of this sketch, was born on a farm in Weller county, province of Ontario, Canada, on November 19, 1866, and thus he was about two years of age at the time of the family removal to Shelby county, Missouri, where he gained his rudimentary education in the district schools of Taylor township. When he had attained to the age of four-

teen years his parents removed to Elkhart county, Indiana, as has already been noted, and there he was reared to maturity and continued his educational discipline in the public schools, the while he contributed his quota to the work of the home farm, in the work and management of which he continued to be associated until 1889, when, as a young man of twenty-three years, he returned to Shelby county, Missouri, and settled in Taylor township, where he now owns a well improved farm of 160 acres, all of the land being available for cultivation and being devoted to diversified agriculture and the raising of live stock of excellent grades. Mr. Johnston has shown himself industrious, persevering and progressive and thus has achieved a worthy success in connection with his farming operations. Loyal and liberal as a citizen, he finds satisfaction in aiding in the support of all that tends to advance the general welfare of the community, and to him is given unqualified esteem and confidence by all who knew him. In politics he is a staunch advocate of the principles for which the Republican party stands sponsor, but he has never cared to enter the arena of practical politics, and the only office in which he has consented to serve is that of school director of his district. Both he and his wife hold membership in the Mennonite church, in whose faith he was reared, and is now pastor of Mt. Pisgah church, near Cherry Box, having served a number of years.

On December 25, 1890, Mr. Johnston gave appropriate observance of the joyous Christmastide by wedding Miss Anna Detwiler, who was born in Whiteside

county, Illinois, and reared in Shelby county, and who is a daughter of John G. and Magdalina Detwiler, well known residents of the village of Cherry Box, this county. To Mr. and Mrs. Johnston have been born eight children, all of whom still remain at the parental home, and their names are here entered in respective order of their birth: Lydia, now Mrs. Fred Littleton, of this county; Alma, Eran, Uriah, Noah, Orpha, Esther and Orvis.

WILLIAM HOWELL.

Born of a martial strain and with high examples of devotion to patriotic duty and loyalty to the rights of mankind in his family history, William Howell, one of the venerable and venerated citizens of Salt River township, in this county, has, in his own life work and experience, admirably sustained the spirit and patriotic ardor of his ancestors and exemplified the best attributes of elevated American citizenship. His grandfather, John Howell, although a native of England, helped to win the independence of our country by four years valiant service in the Continental army under the immortal commander who was "First in war, first in peace and first in the hearts of his countrymen." And when the Civil war burst with all its fury on the land and threatened its dismemberment, he shouldered his musket and freely poured out his blood to save the Union which his ancestor had helped to found.

Mr. Howell was born in Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, on December 1, 1833, and is a son of Aaron and Rebecca (Wilson) Howell, also natives of