

death of his father when he was twenty years of age and was obliged to at once begin the battle of life for himself. His preparation for the struggle was in part a common school education obtained in the district schools of Shelby county, and in part the companionship and example of his father, with whom he worked three years after leaving school on the farm from which he had drawn his stature and his strength. He was then employed for a time as a section hand and timekeeper in the service of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad. He did not regard his sphere as too humble or his work as unworthy of him, for he had been imbued with the conviction that all useful labor is dignified and honorable. But he felt that there was a destiny of more extensive opportunity before him and that he could employ his faculties to better advantage than the occupation in which he was engaged afforded.

Yielding to this feeling, on June 1, 1908, Mr. Janes entered into partnership, with John McGlasson in a general merchandising enterprise, the success of which from the start gave him high hopes of rapidly increasing material acquisitions. But on November 7, following the opening of the store, it and all its contents were totally destroyed by fire, and this ended the partnership with the business. Mr. Janes was not dismayed by his disaster. He at once began to look about him for a new connection with a view to undertaking a new enterprise. He formed another partnership, this time with C. W. McIntosh, of Lentner, and on February 1, 1909, they opened their new store. Mr. Janes continued

in this firm until the summer of 1910, when he disposed of his interest in the business and removed to Kansas City, Mo., where he is now employed.

JOHN R. LYELL.

John R. Lyell, the president and controlling spirit of the Commercial Bank of Shelby, the man who directs its policy and looks closely and intelligently after all its affairs, is a native of Shelby county, where he was born on November 14, 1866. He is a son of Thomas P. and Sarah E. (Jones) Lyell, the former of whom was born and reared in Virginia and the latter in Missouri. The father came to this state at an early age and located in Marion county. Some time afterward he moved to Shelby county and took up his residence north of Hunnewell. There he became possessed of a tract of wild land which had never yet responded to the persuasive hand of systematic cultivation, but lay buried in the sleep of ages waiting for the voice of its master to call it forth to fruitfulness and beauty. Mr. Lyell broke up the tract and improved it, making of it one of the best and most productive farms in the county, and finally ending his days on it amid the monuments to his enterprise and progressiveness which he had reared around him. His widow survived him a few years, passing away at Shelby. They have three sons and one daughter living, and all contributing actively and practically to the welfare of the communities in which they have their homes. The family is of Scotch ancestry.

John R. Lyell grew to manhood in this county and obtained his education in the

Shelbina schools and Collegiate Institute. He began life for himself as a clerk and salesman in a grocery store, and during the short time he served the requirements of his position with industry and fidelity. But he felt within him an urgent call to fields of higher endeavor and wider opportunity. Accordingly he engaged in the real estate, loan and insurance business, which he followed until he became president of the bank. Since then he has given the affairs of the bank his close personal attention, looking into all the details of its business with intelligent scrutiny and an earnest determination to secure the best possible results in every respect for its promoters and patrons. In addition he owns and operates a large farm.

In political faith Mr. Lyell is allied with the Democratic party, but, although he is active in the support of its principles and candidates, he has never sought or consented to accept an office for himself except in the government of the town. Among the many fraternal and benevolent societies existent and active in the country he has allied himself with but two, the Masonic order and the Knights of Pythias. In the former he holds the rank of Knight Templar. In religious affiliations he belongs to the M. E. Church, South, and is president of the board of stewards of the congregation in which he has his membership. On June 28, 1890, he was united in marriage with Miss Idress Stephens, of Macon, Missouri. No man stands higher in the community than Mr. Lyell, and none better deserves the esteem in which he is held. To every interest of the town and county

he has been attentive in the most practical and beneficial way.

THOMAS JANES.

The interesting subject of this writing, who is one of the venerable and venerated citizens of Shelby county and now has his home in Lakenan, was born in Washington county, Kentucky, on November 2, 1832, and is a son of John H. and Henrietta (Gibbs) Janes, the former a native of Kentucky and the latter born and reared in the same state. The father was born in 1800 and became a resident of Missouri in 1851. He took up land in Marion county, which he cultivated and improved, and on which he was extensively engaged in raising live stock, until 1865. In that year he retired from active work and moved to Shelby county, making his home with his son-in-law, Benjamin Green. He died in 1866. In 1819 he was married to Miss Henrietta Gibbs, and by this marriage became the father of eleven children, six of whom are living: James L. G., who has his home in Monroe county; Thomas, who is the theme of these paragraphs; John H., a resident of Nebraska; William P., of Hunnewell; Kittie, the wife of Benjamin Green, now living in Monroe county; and Rebecca Ann, the widow of George Ruberson, deceased. In politics the father was a pronounced Democrat and in religion a firm and faithful Catholic.

Thomas Janes lived to the age of nineteen in his native state and was educated in the district schools near his home, supplementing their course of instruc-