

devoted close attention to the reading of law, under effective preceptorship. He was admitted to the bar, upon examination in the Circuit court of his native county, April 11, 1903, prior to which time he had been for fourteen years a successful and popular teacher in the district schools of the county. After his admission to the bar he continued his pedagogic labors for another year, and on February 14, 1904, he opened an office in the thriving little city of Clarence, where he has since been engaged in the practice of his profession, and where his success as a trial lawyer and well fortified counsellor has been on a parity with his energy in and devotion to his chosen vocation.

In politics Mr. Hamrick accords an unswerving allegiance to the Democratic party, in whose faith he was reared, and he has rendered effective service in its cause. In April, 1904, he was appointed city attorney of Clarence, of which position he has since remained incumbent, and on November 3, 1908, he was elected to the office of prosecuting attorney of the county, receiving a gratifying majority at the polls, and entering upon the duties of his office on January 1, 1909, for a term of two years, and he was re-elected in the fall of 1910, with an increased majority. He has proved in his administration the wisdom of his choice for the office and has materially added to his professional laurels through his effective labors as public prosecutor. He is essentially a loyal and progressive citizen, and takes deep interest in all that tends to conserve the welfare of his native county and state. He is affiliated with Clarence Lodge, No. 305, Free &

Accepted Masons, and its adjunct organization, the Order of the Eastern Star, and also holds membership in the M. W. of A. Both he and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, South.

On July 26, 1906, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Hamrick to Miss Grace Kemper, daughter of William Kemper, a representative citizen of Clarence, this county, where she was born and reared.

#### WALTER M. PRITCHARD.

The able and popular cashier of the Clarence Savings Bank is recognized as one of the representative business men of the younger generation in his native county, and his civic and business status in his native town of Clarence sets at naught all application of the scriptural aphorism that "a prophet is not without honor save in his own country." Of the institution in which he is an executive officer, brief record is given on other pages of this work.

Mr. Pritchard was born in the village of Clarence, Shelby county, Missouri, October 11, 1879, and is the elder of the two children of James W. and Mina (Merrin) Pritchard, whose marriage was solemnized in this county in 1876: the younger child, Alma, is now the wife of John Ward, of Brookfield, Missouri. The honored father died in 1892, and the mother was summoned to the life eternal in 1895. She was born and reared in Shelby county and was a member of an honored pioneer family of this favored section of the state. James W. Pritchard was born in the state of Virginia, and in 1876 he came to Missouri

and took up his residence in the village of Clarence, this county, where he continued to maintain his home until his demise and where he became a substantial business man and honored and influential citizen. He was here identified with farming and stock-growing, in connection with which he became the owner of a large and valuable landed estate in the county, and he also conducted for a number of years a successful business in the shipping of timber and the manufacturing of lumber. In politics he was a staunch Republican, and at the time of the Civil war it was his to render valiant service as a soldier of the Union. He enlisted in Company E Seventeenth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and continued in active service during practically the entire period of the great internecine conflict between the states. He was wounded in the battle of Kenesaw Mountain, but was not long incapacitated, and he was with General Sherman's forces on the ever memorable march from Atlanta to the sea. He was ever interested in his old comrades in arms and signified this by his membership in the Grand Army of the Republic. Both he and his wife were zealous members of the Christian church.

Walter M. Pritchard, the immediate subject of this review, is indebted to the public schools of Clarence for his early educational training, which included a course in the high school, and he later completed a thorough course in the Gem City Business College, at Quincy, Illinois, in which institution he was graduated as a member of the class of 1898. In 1900, when nineteen years of age, Mr. Pritchard became assistant cashier of

the Citizens' Bank of Clarence, retaining this position for a period of five years, at the expiration of which he disposed of his stock in the bank and assisted in the organization of the Clarence Savings Bank, which was incorporated in 1905, and of which he has been cashier from the beginning. His discrimination and effective executive administration have inured greatly to the success of this popular institution, in which he is a large stockholder and which is now one of the solid and important banking houses of the county. He is the owner of a well improved farm of 270 acres, located in Clay township, about two miles east of Clarence, and to the operation of the same he gives a general supervision, devoting special attention to the raising of high-grade live stock.

Though never imbued with office-seeking proclivities, Mr. Pritchard is arrayed as a staunch supporter of the cause of the Democratic party and is essentially progressive and loyal as a citizen. He and his wife hold membership in the Christian church, and he is affiliated with the Masonic fraternity, the Knights of Pythias, the Benevolent & Protective Order of Elks, the Modern Woodmen of America.

On August 3, 1898, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Pritchard to Miss Ella Kemper, who likewise was born and reared in Shelby county, being a daughter of William Kemper, a representative citizen and business man of Clarence. The three children of this marriage are Madge, Helen and Kemper. Mr. and Mrs. Pritchard are popular figures in the social life of the community

and their attractive home is one in which a gracious hospitality is ever in evidence.

#### THE CLARENCE SAVINGS BANK.

In the stability, scope and management of its financial institutions Shelby county has a source of just gratulation, and among the prominent concerns exercising important functions and fortified by all that is reliable in executive control and capitalistic reinforcement, is the Clarence Savings Bank, established in the thriving little city of Clarence.

The Clarence Savings Bank was organized in January, 1905, and was duly incorporated under the laws of the state, with a capital stock of \$20,000, which was increased to \$40,000 at the annual election of the stockholders in January, 1907. The personnel of the original board of directors was as here noted: J. H. Merrin, Burrel Million, Dr. J. W. Megee, B. L. Glahn, H. C. Williams, M. H. Lewis and W. M. Pritchard. The executive officers of the institution have remained the same from the initiation of business until December, 1910, when James O. Stribbling was elected president to succeed J. H. Merrin, who retired on account of his extreme age. Mr. Stribbling enjoys a wide acquaintance throughout the county and his connection with the bank will add to the strength and popularity of that now popular banking house. The other officers are: Burrel Million, vice-president (Mr. Million died in the summer of 1910 and J. B. Shale was elected in January, 1911); and Walter M. Pritchard, cashier. There has been no change in

the directorate save that in April, 1909, upon the death of Dr. Megee, J. B. Shale was chosen as his successor. The present board of directors is composed of the following gentlemen: J. O. Stribbling, J. B. Shale, B. L. Glahn, H. C. Williams, W. M. Pritchard, W. L. Hamrick and M. H. Lewis. The bank now controls a large and representative support and its business is constantly expanding in scope and importance. Sketches of the careers of its president and its cashier may be found on other pages of this volume.

#### HON. NATHANIEL MEACON SHELTON.

Eminent as a jurist, occupying an exalted place in the confidence and esteem of the people as a citizen, and an ornament to any social circle of which he is a part, Hon. Nathaniel Meacon Shelton, of Macon, circuit judge of the Second judicial district of Missouri, is an honor to the state in which he lives, the profession to which he belongs, and high-toned American manhood, of which he is so shining an example.

The Judge was born near Troy, Lincoln county, this state, on March 17, 1851. His parents were Meacon and Anna (Berger) Shelton, natives of Pittsylvania county, Virginia, where the father was an extensive planter and owner of large tracts of land and numerous slaves. They were married in 1828, in their native state, and when they determined to migrate to the then far distant and uncivilized region beyond the Mississippi from their ancestral home, they came to Missouri in 1833, making