

## DR. DAVID R. FRANCIS.

Dr. David Raitt Francis was born in Millin township, Richland county, Ohio, March 21, 1837, and his boyhood days were passed upon his father's farm, within sight of the Big Hill. He early took an interest in education and educational work. He read medicine with Dr. Loughridge as his preceptor, and later graduated at the College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York city in 1866. He practiced medicine for several years at Paxton, Illinois, and at Savanna and Shiloh, this state, and finally located in Mansfield, where he has continued to reside. He has a large practice and for a number of years was the physician to the county infirmary, Children's Home and the outside poor.

Dr. Francis married, September 16, 1863, Miss Mary Jane Wallace, of Ashland county. She was born August 8, 1839, in Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania. Dr. and Mrs. Francis are members of the Presbyterian church and are both pleasant socially. They have no children.

In the preparation of this sketch the writer knows that Dr. Francis would prefer a more extended notice of his grandparents, David and Illis Angus Raitt, than he would of himself, as they were prominent Richland county pioneers. They came from Dundee, Scotland, to America, and after stopping a while in Virginia and Belmont county, this state, they came to Richland county in a one-horse cart in 1818, and entered land south of the Big Hill in what is now the northwest corner of Millin township.

To show how difficult it was to get money at that time, it is stated that farmers hauled wheat from the Hill and even from greater distances, to the Stewart (now Wickert's) mills, four miles south of Mansfield and sold it for twenty-five cents a bushel and were glad to get even that low price, cash.

Mr. Raitt, who was a weaver, had to take trade largely for his work; and how to raise fifteen dollars, the annual payment on their land, was for a time a perplexing question in that household. Finally Mrs. Raitt solved the problem and saved the homestead for her family. Mrs. Raitt was fairly educated, and entered upon the practice of tocology and at fifty cents a case had the fifteen dollars to meet the payment when it was due. Her fame in this line of practice spread abroad and as doctors were "scarce and far between" it was no unusual thing for her to receive calls taking her from ten to fifteen miles from home. People rode on horseback in those days as vehicles were few and the roads were mostly but paths cut through the wilderness and streams had to be forded. She had frequently to ride skittish and fractious horses; was often thrown and several times had bones broken; but her indomitable will and energy caused her to persevere, impelled by the love she had for her family and her desire to provide for their comfort and education.

Mr. and Mrs. Raitt died in 1855, within six months of each other, the latter at eighty-two and the former a few years older. They had lived thirty-seven years within a mile of the Hill and now their remains repose in the Bosdock cemetery.

Dr. D. R. Francis' parents, John and Nancy Willison (Raitt) Francis, were married by Rev. James Johnson, April, 1835. John Francis was a farmer and was many years a ruling elder in the United Presbyterian church. His wife was a kind, thoughtful, pious woman and a devoted wife and mother.