

SAMUEL R. GORHAM.

When a man's purpose has taken definite form and his energies are concentrated on the prosecution of a career which he has marked out, he cannot fail to win a gratifying degree of success. Prosperity results not from favorable conditions or from influence, but must depend upon the man, and certain qualities always bring desired results. Depending upon his own efforts Samuel Gorham has steadily worked his way upward financially and is classified among the substantial citizens of his community.

Mr. Gorham was born in Perrysville, Ashland county, April 7, 1852, his parents being Hezekiah and Charity (Turner) Gorham, of whose family of

twelve children six are yet living. The father was born at Cape Cod, Massachusetts, September 22, 1807, and in early life went to sea, where he rose from one position to another until he became the captain of a vessel. Some years after his marriage his wife, who did not like her husband's occupation, for it kept him so much away from home, removed with the family to Ohio, and some months later he left the sea and joined her in Perryville. He was a mason by trade and here he resumed work at his old occupation. At the time of the discovery of gold in California he made his way across the plains to the Pacific slope in 1849, and there, like many others, he acquired considerable money, but lost it through speculation. After two years passed in the Golden state he returned to Ohio and again worked at his trade until his death, which occurred May 18, 1874. He held membership in the Baptist church and exercised his right of franchise in support of the men and measures of the Republican party. His wife was born in Waitsfield, Vermont, November 18, 1811, and was a sister of Gilbert Turner, the noted author, and the aunt of Roswell Horr, who is considered authority on financial matters. She died June 15, 1887. Their surviving children are John G., who is with the house of Aultman-Taylor, of Mansfield, Ohio; William H. H., who is in the real-estate business in Cleveland; Eliza, the wife of William Strimple, a farmer of Richland county; Elizabeth, the wife of Aaron Smith, an agriculturist of Monroe township; James, a railroad man, of Cleveland, Ohio; and Samuel R., a farmer of Monroe township.

The last named spent his boyhood days in his father's home and in the common schools acquired his preliminary education, which was supplemented by study in the Perrysville Academy. His close application and his natural aptitude prepared him for a teacher's profession and at the age of twenty-one he entered the schoolroom as a teacher. For eighteen years he was numbered among the successful educators in the common schools in this part of the state, having the ability to impart clearly to others the knowledge he had acquired. He was also capable of maintaining discipline, which was an important factor in his successful career. For several years he also taught vocal and instrumental music and to a limited extent still gives instruction in that art. About 1889, however, he purchased his present farm and began the operation of his land, placing the fields under a high state of cultivation and making many excellent improvements. Everything about the place is neat and thrifty in its appearance and the buildings and fences are kept in good repair, the owner thus being classed among the leading farmers of his community. In 1880 was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Gorham and Miss Clara B. Shanabarger, native of Richland county and a daughter of

Emanuel Shanabarger, now deceased. Their marriage has been blessed with one son, Ira G., who is now a student in the State University at Columbus, where he is preparing for the bar. Socially Mr. Gorham is connected with the Royal Arcanum Lodge at Perrysville, of which he is the secretary. He also belongs to Hanover Lodge, F. & A. M., of Loudonville, Ohio, and is a faithful member of the Baptist church. He is a Republican and keeps well informed on the issues of the day, as every true American citizen should do. Public-spirited and progressive, he withholds his support from no measure that is calculated to prove of general good and has been particularly active in promoting the educational interests of this section of the state, realizing fully the importance and value of an education as a preparation for life's work.