

MRS. L. R. COWAN.

Among the esteemed residents of Mansfield is numbered Mrs. L. R. Cowan, who has a wide acquaintance in the city. Her husband, Washington Cowan, was born in Chester county, Pennsylvania, in 1812, and at the age of twenty-three years came to Ohio, locating in Holmes county, where he remained for about thirty-five years. There he engaged in farming and was also the proprietor of a hotel. He owned two large farms near Millersburg, and in the cultivation of his land met with gratifying success. On his removal to Columbus he became an agent for the Garrett Land Company, of Garrett, Indiana. He secured the site of that town and laid out the place in 1875-6. The town grew rapidly and the officials of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad purchased much property there. They located their repair shops at that place, which is half way between Chicago and this city. In 1873 Mr. Cowan became a director of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, of which his son, John K. Cowan, is now the president. He married Elizabeth Lemon, whose parents were from Columbia county, Pennsylvania. She was a woman of strong character, of splendid mental qualities and most carefully reared her family. Her high intellectuality seems to have been inherited by her children, upon whose lives she left the impress of her strong individuality and her noble example. She died in Millersburg, Ohio, in 1875, when about sixty years of age. In 1876 Washington Cowan married the widow of the late Dr. W. Blecker, of Mansfield, for many years a promi-

ment physician of Richland county and twice a representative in the Ohio legislature. About twelve years before his death Washington Cowan took up his abode in Mansfield and there he passed away in 1891, at the age of seventy-nine years. He acted as a director of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad up to the time of his demise. He was a man of splendid business ability, quick to recognize and improve every opportunity. His sagacity and foresight enabled him to make judicious investments, while his enterprise, indomitable energy and unfaltering perseverance won him a prosperity that numbered him among the most substantial citizens. In politics he was a Democrat, but would never accept office. He was a man of striking personal appearance, straight, well proportioned and of distinguished bearing; and his pleasing personality, combined with the best traits of character, won him the respect and admiration of all with whom he was brought in contact. His widow, Mrs. L. R. Cowan, still lives at her home in Mansfield, where she has a wide acquaintance and is an active factor in intellectual, social and church circles. She is a lady of innate culture and refinement, and her hospitality is greatly enjoyed by her large circle of friends.

John K. Cowan received his education in the local schools of Hayesville, Ohio, and in Princeton College, being graduated in the latter institution in the class of 1862. He then began preparation for the bar and was graduated in the law department of the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor about 1864. His birth occurred in Holmes county, Ohio, in November, 1845. Upon his admission to the bar he located in Mansfield, and, although he was a stranger here, he soon won prominence. He tried some cases in the Millersburg courts, which made him widely known, and after practicing for a short time alone in Mansfield he entered into partnership with Judge Manuel May, about 1867. His preparation for the bar was very thorough and thus well equipped he entered upon a very successful career. His preparation of cases was most thorough and comprehensive. He seemed almost intuitively to grasp the strong points of the law; in fact he presented his cause with such force and logic as to leave no doubt as to the correctness of his views or of his conclusions. In the fall of 1871 he was elected county attorney of Richland county, and in 1872 he was called to Baltimore by John Garrett, the president of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, as an assistant attorney to Reverdy Johnson, a celebrated jurist, and then serving as attorney-general for this railroad company. On the death of Mr. Johnson Mr. Cowan was made his successor. He continued as the legal adviser and advocate for the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad until elected its president, about 1894. He has proved himself a man of excellent business ability,

extremely resourceful and with splendid powers of management, and under his control the railroad of which he is the president is becoming one of the most important in the country.