

SAMUEL J. COLWELL.

Prominent among the energetic, far-seeing and successful business men of Richland county is the subject of this sketch. His life history most happily illustrates what may be accomplished by faithful and continued effort in carrying out an honest purpose. Integrity, activity and energy have been the crowning points of his success, and his connection with various enterprises and industries have been a decided advantage to this portion of the state, promoting its material welfare in no uncertain manner. As a wholesale and retail dealer in hardware in Mansfield he holds a conspicuous place in commercial circles in the city which is now his home.

Mr. Colwell is a native son of Richland county, his birth having occurred in Lexington September 10, 1859, his parents being Samuel B. and Mary (McIntire) Colwell, both of whom are natives of Pennsylvania. His father was born in Southampton township, Cumberland county, Pennsylvania, June 12, 1810, and there grew to manhood and learned the trade of blacksmithing, which he followed until his removal to the west in 1830. In that year he came with his father, Samuel Colwell, to Richland county, settling at Lexington, where they were associated in operating one of the first grist-mills in this portion of the state. They carried on business for some time,

and afterward the father of our subject engaged in farming near Lexington. Later he removed with his family to Missouri, where also he followed agricultural pursuits, making his home in that state for about eight years. While there his wife passed away in death, in 1871, and soon afterward the family returned to Ohio, locating in Mansfield, where the father made his home until his death, which occurred June 23, 1879. He was highly respected for his many good qualities of heart and mind and in his life manifested many of the sterling characteristics of his Scotch lineage. His wife, of Irish extraction, came with her parents to Richland county in 1835. This worthy couple had nine children, three of whom are now deceased.

Samuel J. Colwell, whose name introduces this review, was about four years of age when his parents removed to Missouri, where he gained a common-school education. After the return of the family to Mansfield he secured a clerical position in the employ of A. & E. Thompson, wholesale milliners of this city, and in the employ of that firm he remained for eight years. During the latter part of the time he represented the house as a traveling salesman. For about two years thereafter he was a traveling salesman in the employ of W. S. Plummer & Company, wholesale milliners, of Toledo, and later he became a representative upon the road of the suspender industries of Mansfield. This city is known far and wide for its large and successful suspender factories, and for fifteen years Mr. Colwell was a traveling salesman, introducing that line of goods first for one house and then another, the changes in his business connection being induced by the increased salary offered him. He was the first salesman west of Chicago to sell suspenders direct from the manufacturers to the dealers. His territory was large and the volume of business transacted was correspondingly extensive. He was widely and favorably known and his career as a "traveling man" was a marked success. On the 1st of December, 1899, he engaged in the wholesale and retail hardware business in Mansfield, under the firm name of the Colwell Hardware Company, and has since enjoyed a steadily increasing trade. He carries a complete and excellent stock of hardware, tools and farm implements, and the business methods and policy which he has followed have gained for him in a brief period a most excellent reputation in commercial circles.

In 1886 Mr. Colwell was united in marriage to Miss Fannie B. Miller, a daughter of David P. and Harriet (Beverstock) Miller, of Richland county. Our subject and his wife have two sons, namely: David Miller and Jud Allen. The parents and their elder son are members of the Pres-

byterian church, and fraternally Mr. Colwell is connected with the Knights of Pythias, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and the Junior Order of United American Mechanics. He is broad in his views, liberal in his judgment, strong in his convictions and earnest in his opinions. His life will bear the closest scrutiny without suffering criticism. Such men leave a lasting impress for good and their histories cannot fail to exert a beneficial influence on the youth of succeeding generations.