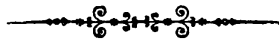


fifteen men each winter. For farming purposes, he purchased ten acres of land in East River Township, to which he has added at various times until he now owns eighty-two and a half acres. He has made many excellent improvements on this land in the way of erecting buildings and cultivating the soil. For four or five years he was employed in the coal mines of Page County, and then purchased a mine which he now operates; he employs from ten to twenty-five men, and is doing a successful business. Thrown upon his own resources in childhood, and working his way to his present position of financial independence, he certainly is deserving of unbounded credit. His first wages amounted to twelve cents a week and board himself. Since coming to this country he has been unfortunate in one or two business ventures, but he has had enough clear, hard grit to push ahead in spite of obstacles, and has made a most decided success of life.

Mr. Prosser was married in 1876 to Miss Nancy Pierson, a native of Virginia. Politically he is an active supporter of the issues of the Republican party. He is a member of Clarinda Lodge, No. 109, I. O. O. F. He is a man who has done much toward the improving and developing of the community, and by his honesty and integrity of character has made many friends in Page County.



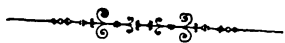
JOHN M. LOUDON, a resident of section 33, Tarkio Township, has been identified with the interests of Page County since 1867. Mr. Loudon was born in Juniata County, Pennsylvania, April 23, 1825. His father, Solomon Loudon, was a native of the north of Ireland, and emigrated to America at the age of eighteen years; he married Eliza Barton, also a native of Ireland, who

came to America at the age of twelve years. They reared a family of twelve children, five sons and seven daughters. John M. was reared on a farm and received a limited education in the common schools. When he had arrived at man's estate he left the farm and spent three years as a salesman in a manufacturing house.

November 15, 1854, occurred the marriage of John M. Loudon and Mary Jane McKee. Mrs. Loudon was born in Juniata County, Pennsylvania, and is a daughter of David and Elizabeth (Boggs) McKee. After his marriage, our subject lived three years in Alleghany County, Pennsylvania, and removed thence to Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania, from which locality he came to Iowa in 1869. He purchased 160 acres of land, and was among the earlier settlers in Tarkio Township. He has made excellent improvements, including a fine residence erected in 1887 after a modern style of architecture; there is a good barn, and a bearing orchard provides an abundance of fruit. It is one of the most desirable farms in the township, and one of which the owner may well be proud.

Mr. and Mrs. Loudon have been blessed with seven children: Martha, wife of W. J. Clark; Jennie, wife of W. H. Dutton; Rebecca, wife of J. H. Linder; Solomon, David B., Samuel B. and John M. Politically Mr. Loudon is a Democrat. He has served his township as Justice of the Peace, and has also been a member of the school board and trustee, filling these positions with credit to himself and to the satisfaction of the public. He is a member of the Presbyterian Church at Norwich, of which he has been an elder. He has served in the Sabbath-school both as superintendent and as a teacher, and has ever taken an active interest in religious matters. Believing in the power of education he has given his children liberal opportunities, and

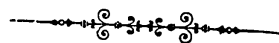
has fitted them well for the various duties to which they have been called. Although he has almost attained his three score years and ten, he bears his years lightly, having always lived a life of temperate habits. In his manner he is frank and candid, and by correct living he has gained an enviable reputation in the community.



CHARLES B. SHOEMAKER, deceased, was a native of Pennsylvania, born February 13, 1832, his parents being Samuel G. and Mary (Potts) Shoemaker of German ancestry. Samuel G. was born December 1, 1791, and died April 27, 1873; and his wife, born August 27, 1797, died August 14, 1880; they were married May 22, 1817. The ancestors of the Shoemaker family came from Germany and settled in Berks County, Pennsylvania, and the ancestors of the Potts family came from Holland, but originally from England. They founded the city of Pottsville, Pennsylvania, engaging there in the iron business. In the family there were ten children, two of whom died when young. George Washington Shoemaker died at the age of twenty-three years, of consumption. Charles B. had three younger brothers, namely, Matthew, Fleming and Melissa. He was the fourth in a family of eight children and his early years were spent in assisting his father on a farm and in attending school. In 1849-'52 he learned the printer's trade, then left Murray for Venango County, Pennsylvania, when the town was called Agnew's Mills. He next came to Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, in 1855, and in 1858 he removed to Sidney, Fremont County, where he published the *Herald*. After one year he removed to Clarinda and established the *Clarinda Herald*, which he conducted three years.

In September, 1862, Mr. Shoemaker enlisted in the Twenty-ninth Iowa Volunteer Infantry, and received the commission of Major. He remained in the service until February 1, 1865, when he was honorably discharged. After leaving the army he located in New York, where he embarked in the coal trade. In 1874 he engaged in mining in New Jersey, and two years later he returned to Clarinda and assumed charge of the *Herald*, which he had founded in 1859. He continued in this business until his death, which occurred October 23, 1877.

Mr. Shoemaker was united in marriage August 10, 1857, to Miss Mary Haas, a native of Pennsylvania and one of a family of five children. Four children have been born of this union, three of whom are living. Our subject was at the time of his death a member of Henry Ward Beecher's Church. His widow belongs to the Presbyterian Church at Clarinda. Politically he was a radical Republican and took an active part in politics. He was also foremost in all educational matters. He was an honored member of the I. O. O. F., the A. F. & A. M., and of the A. O. U. W. He and his family stood high in social circles at Clarinda, and his death was mourned by a wide circle of friends and acquaintances.



FRANK A. BOWER is the manager for Charles V. Mount, dealer in jewelry, watches, clocks and optical goods. This fine stock, comprising everything in the trade and invoicing upwards of \$3,000, is handsomely and artistically displayed in show cases and wall cabinets in Mr. Mount's store; he owns the building and the rooms are admirably adapted to the trade.

The proprietor of this establishment is