

last contract work; for several years past he has retired from active labor of any kind.

George Parrott was married January 18, 1849, to Susan Emery, daughter of John and Catherine (Harter) Emery. She was born in Richland township, Marion county, Ohio, March 19, 1829. The children who have come to bless this home are Nancy Jane, born January 26, 1850, who is the wife of Benjamin Boyles, of Peoria: their children are Nellie, Martha, Jane and Clarissa; John Emery, who was born October 8, 1851, and married Ada Hawes and owns eighty acres in Rich Grove township: his children are Austin, Bessie, Nora, Grace, Homer, Addie, Charles and Amy; Martha Elizabeth, who was born August 26, 1853, and died October 29, 1878, married Frank Boyles, brother of Benjamin, and gave birth to two children,—George and Benjamin K., the latter of whom died at the age of four months; William Sewall, born September 8, 1855, who married, October 5, 1878, Etta Hawes, sister of Ada, and daughter of Daniel and Ellen (Gobel) Hawes, is a farmer of Richland township, near where his wife was born, on September 24, 1858: their children are Elsie Eunice, born November 17, 1880, Nellie Gertrude, born August 1, 1884, Effie Katie, born August 28, 1887, George Harrison, born April 7, 1893; Susan Catherine, born March 15, 1858, married E. N. Stephenson, a molder now living in St. Louis: their children are Homer (deceased), Marshall and Percival; Ann, born September 8, 1860, who died just as she was budding into a more than brilliant womanhood, and only lacking four days of attaining her sixteenth year; Charles George, born October 3, 1866, who resides in Winamac, and is extensively engaged in insurance; he married Mary Simmons and has two children,—Fern Olive and Helen Mary. A more complete sketch of him is given on another page.

Mr. Parrott is a Republican, and while in Ohio was complimented by being elected township clerk; but, having no desire to enter political office, he declined the honor and would not serve. He is an honorable member of Winamac Lodge, No. 41, G. A. R., and is one whose friends are legion. It might be mentioned that Arthur Sewall, prominently before the public as occupying second place on the Democratic presidential ticket with William J. Bryan, in 1896, is a relative of our subject.

HON. MARION LYCURGUS SPITLER.

This worthy citizen of Rensselaer is a representative of one of the pioneer families of Jasper county, and is well entitled to a place in the annals of a county whose development from a wild, primitive state to its present condition he has witnessed, being himself a material factor in the grand result.

The Spitzlers are of German extraction. Our subject's father, George

W., was born in what was then Shenandoah, now Page, county, Virginia, April 23, 1813, a son of Abram and Mary (Rossenberger) Spitler, whose other children were Wesley, Zachariah, Rebecca and Mann. In 1834 George W. Spitler and his father came to Indiana for the purpose of securing a location for a future home, and in the course of their widely extended travels they visited the hamlet of Chicago, little dreaming that on the swamp at the mouth of the sluggish Chicago river would rise a city whose enterprise and achievements within half a century of that time would claim the attention and become the wonder of the world. The value of land, in the eyes of these Virginia emigrants, consisted in broad acres of fertile farming tracts, and they finally selected some property on the banks of the Iroquois river, near the town of Brook, Newton county, and then returned to their native state.

In the following spring, 1835, George W. Spitler started for his new field of labor, making the journey with a horse and wagon. On the way he made an important stop, for in Butler county, Ohio, he was united in marriage with Malinda Hershman, on the 23d of April. The Hershmans had been old neighbors of his in Virginia, and on his first trip to Indiana he had visited the family and had then arranged for the marriage the next spring. The young couple made their wedding tour in the afore-mentioned wagon, and upon arriving at their destination settled down to true pioneer existence. In his youth Mr. Spitler had been very studious, and now he found that his learning was to serve him in good stead, for in the autumn of 1835 he obtained a position as a teacher in West Lebanon, Warren county, and, accompanied by his wife, he spent the winter there. In 1841 he removed to a section of land which he had purchased in the vicinity of Rensselaer, and there he continued to reside during the remainder of his life. He built a good home in the village and dwelt there for a few years, but for the most part lived upon his homestead. His death was a tragic one, as he was killed by a stroke of lightning, August 17, 1863.

Probably no man did more for the founding of this county on a substantial basis. He taught the first school in Rensselaer, and was ever actively concerned in educational matters. In 1839 he was appointed to the office of county clerk of Jasper county, being the first one here to occupy that post, which included the offices of auditor and recorder, those places not yet having been separated into distinct positions. So faithful and efficient was he that the people re-elected him three times to the same office, and frequently brought his name forward for state positions, as well. At one time he was colonel of a regiment of militia, and at all times he stood ready to lay aside his personal concerns, should his country or the public have need of him. He was a man of generous impulses, ever glad to lend a helping hand to others, and this quality led to the serious embarrassment

of his estate at the time of his sudden demise, a condition which would have been remedied had he not been stricken when in his prime. No one ever doubted his absolute integrity, and the independence and freedom of conscience which he desired for himself he just as freely accorded to others. He was not identified with any church, but was a practical Christian, notwithstanding. His excellent wife, who had shared with him the vicissitudes of frontier life and had been a true helpmate, survived him, her death taking place March 8, 1883, when she was in her seventieth year. Mr. Spitler was an old-school Jackson Democrat and very zealous on behalf of his party. His brother Wesley came to this county some years after his own settlement here, and likewise became a prominent citizen of the county, of which he served as county surveyor, and in Newton township he held the office of trustee. He now resides near Effingham, Illinois. Another brother, Zachariah, was an early settler of what is now Washington township, Newton county, and is still living there. Rebecca, the only sister who grew to mature years, married Thomas Buswell, and accompanied him to Newton county soon after the close of the civil war. Her husband is deceased, but she is still living at her old home in Newton county, near her brother Zachariah. Mann, the youngest of the family of brothers and sisters, was very prominent in his native state and for many years made his home in Page county, Virginia. He passed away a number of years ago.

The birth of Marion L. Spitler occurred March 12, 1836, in West Lebanon, Warren county, where his parents were spending their first winter in Indiana, and his father was teaching a school. He was but four months old when his parents became permanent residents of Jasper county, and in the neighborhood of Rensselaer almost his entire life has been passed. His father, being deeply impressed with the benefits of a good education, gave to his children as fine advantages as possible, and Marion L. was sent to Wabash College to complete his studies. He was graduated in that institution of learning in the class of 1855. When the war of the Rebellion came on he volunteered his services in the defense of the Union, enlisting in Company A, Eighty-seventh Regiment of Indiana Infantry. He was chosen second lieutenant of his company and was soon promoted to the rank of first lieutenant. He was a gallant and competent officer and made an honorable and praiseworthy record while fighting for his native land. In 1866 he was elected clerk of the county court of Jasper county, and occupied that office for eight years, the constitutional limit of that position. He was a very able and popular official. In 1876, upon his retirement from the clerkship, he entered the law office of Thompson & Brother, of Rensselaer, his duties pertaining especially to the real-estate and abstract business, and with this firm he continued until it was dissolved in 1896, owing to the election of

Simon P. Thompson to the office of circuit judge. In 1894 Mr. Spitler was elected on the Republican ticket to the Indiana legislature, representing Newton and Jasper counties. His services as a statesman reflected great credit upon himself and justified the wisdom of his fellow citizens in selecting him as their representative in the legislative halls of the state. His name is above reproach and all who know him hold him in the highest esteem. Though reared in the Presbyterian faith, he is not a member of any denomination, but is an earnest believer in practical Christianity, and strives to practice it in his daily life.

On the 26th of June, 1859, Mr. Spitler married Miss Mary E. Burnham, a native of Biddeford, Maine. She was reared in New Hampshire, and with her parents, Simon and Mary (Goodwin) Burnham, she went to Kansas, where she became acquainted with her future husband. She was one of fifteen children, seven sons and eight daughters, many of whom are deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Spitler have four living children, namely: Marian E., who married F. B. Leaming and resides at Goshen, Indiana; Charles G., who married Mildred B. Powell, and is a member of the law firm of Foltz, Spitler & Kurrie, of Rensselaer; Maude E., at home; and Marion L., Jr., now a student of the law department of the state university at Bloomington, Indiana.

MATTHEW HALE DUNN.

Among the influential men of Pulaski county, Indiana, probably none is more widely known or highly esteemed than the veteran grain dealer whose name heads this biography. He was born October 4, 1836, in Burlington, New Jersey, on the farm owned by his parents, Richard and Mary Ann (Simpson) Dunn.

Richard Dunn was born near Plymouth, England, on the land owned by his father, Charles Dunn, who was a farmer and land-owner. He ran away from home in his youth, taking passage as a stowaway on the vessel of his uncle, Charles Dunn. He was left in Paris and immediately took another vessel and made a tour of the Black Sea. He then decided to come to America, of which he had heard wonderful stories, and sailed for these shores, arriving in Baltimore in due time. He pushed on to Bethany, Virginia, where he was employed in gardening, and later returned to Baltimore, where he followed the butcher business for a number of years. His next move was to New Jersey, where he met and married his wife, Mary Ann Simpson. In 1849 he went to Logansport, Indiana, where he farmed for two years. He continued to farm from that time, living at Winamac on the old Rudolph Hoch place, then at Kewanna and Star City, dying at the latter