

SKETCHES
OF
PROMINENT CITIZENS
OF 1876,

WITH A FEW OF THE PIONEERS OF THE CITY AND COUNTY
WHO HAVE PASSED AWAY.

By JOHN H. B. NOWLAND.

A SEQUEL TO
“Early Reminiscences of Indianapolis.”
1820-'76.

“Your monument shall be my gentle verse,
Which eyes not yet created shall o'er-read;
And tongues to be, your being shall rehearse,
When all the present breathers of this world are dead.”

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medical colleges; he has also edited the *Indiana Journal of Medicine*, and is now editor of the *Cincinnati Lancet and Observer*. He has been married twice: In 1861 to Miss Lizzie Kerlin. She having died, he was married again, in 1864, to Miss Lizzie Reese, of Philadelphia. He has two children, both boys.

The doctor now resides at 253 South New Jersey street, near where he was born, and where, he tells me, he expects to live the balance of his life.

He seems to have more of a taste for medical literature and science than for the practice of his profession, as he is more engaged in that line. Doctor Stevens' opinions on medical subjects are universally referred to by the medical faculty.

He is rather below the medium size, quick and elastic in his movements, social and genial in manners, accommodating in disposition, with many friends and no enemies.

POWELL HOWLAND.

It is a difficult matter to find a starting point to give the reader a due appreciation of the many fine qualities and virtues of the well-known citizen whose name heads this sketch.

Powell Howland is a native of the Empire State. He was born on the 16th of October, 1799, at the old town of Saratoga, and within four miles of the scene of Burgoyne's defeat, and there remained as a farmer until the 17th of October, 1839, at which time he came to Marion county, and purchased of Benjamin Purcell the farm on which he now resides, containing then but one hundred and sixty acres. This farm is situated four miles north of the city, on the Noblesville road and Peru railroad. He added to this farm until it aggregated three hundred and fifteen acres.

Mr. Howland was never a chronic office seeker, yet he was selected as one of the county commissioners, and also represented the county in the House of Representatives of the State Legislature, and performed his official duties well. He was the first to propose and contribute for a public school in his neighborhood, and had a school house erected on his own land, donating a half acre for the purpose, where he has educated five of his children, one having been educated in New York. His daughter, Mrs. Clements, yet resides in Saratoga county, New York; one of his daughters is the wife of Oliver Johnson, a well-known farmer of Washington township, and a son of Mr. John Johnson, a pioneer of Marion county; another daughter is the wife of Resin R. Hammond, a



Portrait of Powell Howland, Esq.

Powell Howland



Mahala Howland

farmer in the same vicinity; the eldest son is Morris Howland, a well-known farmer of Perry township; Elisha J., the second son, and Charles A. Howland, the youngest son, live in the immediate neighborhood of their father.

Mr. Howland has sold one hundred and twenty-one acres of his farm, fifty of which have been laid out as suburban lots of the city.

Mr. Howland has ever taken a lively interest in horticulture as well as agriculture, growing the finest varieties of fruits, making a speciality of grapes and pears. His farm and farm buildings are the pictures of thrift, industry and comfort. He was the personal friend of the late Governor Joseph A. Wright, who, with his family, for some time resided under his hospitable roof.

He was married in the county of his nativity on the 2d of September, 1823, to Miss Mahala Thurber, who is yet his helpmate; her portrait will be seen on the right of her husband's. Although he has passed the seventy-seventh mile stone in the journey of life, he is yet quite active, retaining his mental faculties as fresh as in youth. Nor is Mrs. Howland wanting in either of the above blessings. It is seldom that two persons live together over half a century and both of them possess so much mental as well as physical vigor as they do. Their house has been a favorite place of visiting of young people, both of country and city, ever since they have resided in the country; their hospitality is proverbial. It is but a few days since that a young couple signified their desire to be united in marriage under their roof, which was granted and a sumptuous repast provided.

Mr. Howland cast his first vote for General Jackson in 1824, and has strictly adhered to the party that sprung from his administration ever since.

When Mr. and Mrs. Howland shall be called home the county will lose two of her most worthy and respected citizens, and Indianapolis her most liberal patrons. And they can truly say with Byron,

"I die—but first I have possessed,
And come what may, I have been blessed."

EDWIN A. DAVIS.

Mr. Davis was born in Northboro, Worcester county, Massachusetts, on the 14th of July, 1830. He claims to have as much, if not more, of the Plymouth Colony Pilgrim Puritan blood in his veins as any man in Indiana, if not in the United States.

He served with the regiment until the battle of Resacca, on the 15th of May, where he was wounded and lost his right arm.

In 1865 he entered the Asbury University at Greencastle, and graduated from that institution on the 1st of July, 1869. He was elected State librarian, and entered upon the duties of his office on the 1st of April, 1869, and served two years. At the special session of the Legislature in 1872 he was elected assistant clerk of the House of Representatives, and was continued at the regular session. He is now engaged in the practice of law in this city.

After the loss of his right arm he learned to write with his left hand. He writes rapidly a good business hand. I fear if Mr. McLain does not find some lady soon whom he is willing to make Mrs. McLain, that he will be amenable to the charge of being an old bachelor.

WILLIAM D. SEATON

Was born in Centerville, Wayne county, Indiana, on the 28th of October, 1845. Mr. Seaton is the son of Mr. Myers Seaton, who was a former dry goods merchant of this city, being of the firm of Seaton & Holman.

William D. Seaton received his education at Keokuk, Iowa. He came to Indianapolis and engaged with his father as a clerk in his hat store; from the junior clerk he has now become the sole proprietor of the establishment at No. 25 North Pennsylvania street. He has been in the same room for eleven years, and expects to remain as many more.

 In 1872 he was married to Miss Alice M. Howland, daughter of ex-county commissioner Charles A. Howland and granddaughter of Powell Howland and Hiram Bacon, two of the oldest and most respected farmers of the county. Mr. Seaton has one child, a son whom he delights to call William D. Seaton, Junior; this scion Mr. Seaton expects to train up in the way he should go, *i. e.*, in the hatting business. I hope the young shoot may be as successful as the parent stem, and live to sell hats during the next centennial year.

JOHN D. CONDIT.

Mr. Condit was born in Hanover, Morris county, New Jersey, on the 17th of September, 1825. With his parents, Daniel D. and Charlotte Condit, removed to Indiana in 183 , and settled in Terre Haute, where he received his primary education, and finished it at Wabash

interest in all benevolent institutions, and given freely of her means. The name of Mrs. Catharine Bobbs will live long after the grass has grown green over her grave. Mrs. Bobbs is a sister of the Hon. Simon Cameron, many years a member of the United States Senate from Pennsylvania, and President Lincoln's Secretary of War.

OLIVER JOHNSON.

There were two well-known old citizens of Marion county, known by the name of Oliver Johnson, one of whom is dead. The one of whom I write is yet living on his farm, five miles north of the city, on the "Sugar Flat" turnpike. He is the eldest son of the late John Johnson, who lived in the immediate neighborhood of where his son now lives.

Oliver Johnson was born in Franklin county, Indiana, in 1821, and when but a child came to this county, and was raised within two miles of where he now resides. He was married in 1843, by the Rev. Henry Ward Beecher, to Miss Parmelia Howland, daughter of the venerable Powell Howland. Mr. Johnson's eldest daughter is the wife of William A. Lowe. The farmer's life being the most independent, their children seem to inherit it.

The son of a wealthy farmer who visited his uncle in this city, a few years since, and spent some time with him, on his return to his farm home, was asked how he would like to live in the city. "Not at all," was his quick reply; "I don't like the way they have of going out with a basket and buying a breakfast every morning before they can eat it." The thrifty farm of Mr. Johnson indicates that he generally keeps several breakfasts on hand, as his large barn is always well filled with the products of his farm, as well as his larder with the smaller productions.

Oliver Johnson possesses, in a high degree, the frankness and candor peculiar to his uncles, the late Jerry and Thomas Johnson. The Johnson family were always noted for their generosity and hospitality, and Oliver has inherited a goodly share.

WILLIAM EVANS

Was born in Butler county, Pennsylvania, in 1812; came west and settled in the county of the same name in Ohio. In 1818 he was married to Miss Margaret Eliot. In 1823 came to Marion county, where he resided fifty years before he died, leaving his wife, who is now seventy-