of 1874, since which time the subject of our sketch has provided a home and bestowed true filial care.

April, 1868, he engaged in merchandising at Gilead, where yet he is successfully pursuing. His store building with residence and portraits of self and wife can be found among the representations of this work for Perry Township.

To some extent Mr. Akright has been a public servant; is at this time serving his fourteenth year as Justice of the Peace. Been Postmaster of his town the ten years past, and Notary Public for eight years. Was first a Whig in politics, casting his first suffrage for President Zachary Taylor. Has been a Republican since the organization of that party. For many years has been a member of the M. E. Church. Is a man of strict integrity. Patriotic, enterprising and honorable, he receives the confidence and esteem of his entire acquaintance.

OLIVER CAULK.

Mr. Oliver Caulk, whose biography we here briefly outline, was born in Cecil County, Maryland, November 1, 1792. His parents died when he was but three weeks old, when he was adopted by his uncle, through whom he received a very liberal education. He made rapid progress in his studies, and acquired extraordinary proficiency in the art of penmanship. He became thoroughly accomplished in all the branches essential to a good practical education.

At the age of 19, he was sent to Philadelphia to acquire a commercial education. There he remained eleven years, during which time he became thoroughly conversant with all the various commercial forms. Becoming dissatisfied with commercial life, he retired to one of the farms bequeathed him by his father, situated in the eastern part of Maryland, where he resided several years, following the pursuit of farming.

When 31 years of age, he married Rachel G. Cox, in the year 1838. He subsequently returned to Philadelphia, where he engaged in the wholesale silk traffic. This enterprise demanded his whole attention, and in consequence of the close confinement thus necessitated, his health began to fail. Believing that a change of climate would be beneficial to his health, he disposed of his property and in the year 1843 removed with his family to Miami County, Indiana. Here he purchased a large tract of land (then known as the Jussler farm), consisting of 303 acres.

During the Winter of 1843 and 1844, he remained with his family in Logansport, then scarcely more than a village. In the following Spring, he removed with his family to the farm. The family consisted of himself, wife, one son and two daughters (the latter young ladies). The country then was new, and very sparsely settled, the nearest neighbor being two miles distant. Here bear, deer and wolves roamed the trackless forests, almost unmolested. Coming from the populous city, so abundantly supplied with religious and social advantages, the change, associated as it was, with the scenes of frontier life, had a depressing influence upon the household who had entered the wilderness to link their destinies with the great State of Indiana. With his courage as his stimulus, and success his motto, Mr. Caulk applied his energies to the task of reducing his woodland farm to a state of productiveness, working early and late in his endeavor to improve the land. Success crowned his efforts, and he lived to see his brightest hopes realized.

He lived a pure and noble life, and was noted for his strict probity of character. He was loved and respected by all who came within the pale of his gentle influence. He was a consistent member of the Society of Friends, during a long and useful life, and after attaining the ripe old age of 77 years, he departed this life, lamented by a large circle of friends, on the 8th day of October, 1869.

JOSEPH M. DARBY.

His premises, as sketched in this Atlas, are in full view of the town of Xenia, south, on the Jerome road, his farm extending to the corporation.

His father, Owen Darby, was of New Jersey, and of English descent. His mother, Margaret Fritts, was of Virginia, and of German descent. They were married in Virginia, in 1799, and were the parents of eleven children—three daughters and eight sons—Joseph, the subject of this narrative, being the youngest. He was born in Butler County, Ohio, February 27, 1819. His mother died when he was about four years old; consequently he knows nothing of a kind mother's care and training. His father married again shortly after and moved to Fayette County, this State. A few years afterward, he bought a small farm in the same county, seven miles southwest from Connersville, the county seat, on what was then called "Hominy Ridge," a healthy location, and now a beautiful section of country. On this farm young Darby spent a few years of boyhood life, shooting squirrels, woodpeckers, trapping quails, fishing and swimming, with others of his comrades, in Large and Small Garrison Creeks; also assisting his father on the farm, as best his young hands could do; in time of harvest, "gogging" for his father and others, by which means he became a good reaper, and, at the age of fifteen, made a "full hand."

In 1831, his father sold out and moved to Tippecanoe County, bought a small farm on Wild Cat Creek, in the timber, ten miles from Lafayette; he improved this same, Joseph helping to grub, pick and burn brush, build fences, etc., spending some of his time in the romantic "Wild Cat," as boys of those times and places knew best how to do. His father soon sold again, and that was the last land he ever owned. He farmed one season on the Wea and one on the Wild Cat Prairie, selling corn at ten cents per bushel, delivered at the hog pen, hogs being worth one dollar per hundred. During these times, young Darby assisted his father by working out.

In the Fall of 1835, his father moved to Johnson County, on the east side of White River, twelve miles south of Indianapolis, having previously given his son at sixteen the privilege of doing for himself—"root, pig, or die." This beautiful world was before his youthful imagination. He hired for one year to his cousin, James P. Ellis, Esq., a wealthy farmer at the sugar grove and "high gap," six miles from Lafayette, for $100, the highest wages for the best of farm hands. But when his father was ready to move to Johnson County, Joseph resolved to accompany him, so much was he attached to his father, notwithstanding the entreaties of his cousin to stay with him.

In the Spring of 1837, young Darby hired to work on the Central Canal, south of Indianapolis, grubbing trees, wheeling dirt, etc., at $16 per month. Though he was small in stature, he was quick and ambitious, and being a good chopper, was put to felling trees and scoring for the locks and culverts—those huge burr oaks dear—thence to counter scoring, his wages being increased. At this work he learned to hew and became one among the boss hewers on the "line." His sun was shining brighter; ambition and genius were clearing the pathway. He soon learned to do frame work on those locks. His first work on the canal was for John Kontz, an old German—Dutchman. He often thinks with peculiar pleasure of that man and the scenes while working for him. The "pole shanty," what a dear place to sleep! Those slab bunks, one above the other!

Next young Darby worked for Free & Banks, at the lock, by Col. John Wishard's, his wages being left to the boss workman at the close of the Fall work; received $1.75 per day.

Here he witnessed some laughable scenes, which still linger in his memory, but will not be described here.

The next season, he worked for the same men at the two locks just south of Indianapolis, receiving the same wages as the boss workmen—$2 per day. Here was hard work and hard fare, but grit took young Darby through. Thence, in 1838, for the same parties, at the "Feeder Dam," at Waverly, Morgan County. Here he was made boss of the timber works, a mere lad of nineteen, having, at times, to order and direct fifty or one hundred Irish in putting in the timber of the dam. Here, in the Fall, with many others, he took the fever, and this ended his work on the canal. As he got able to ride, a horse ran away with him and threw him against a tree, mashing up his left arm, making him a cripple for life. When he saw that he was disabled for manual labor, he wept bitterly, thinking that he would never be able to make a living; but those were childish thoughts; his former energy rallied; he thought how he had swam White River when it was full from bank to bank; he determined to swim instead of drowning. His education was quite limited, and to this his thoughts were turned.

The next season, 1839, he attended a country school, taught by Moses P. Bradley, at which several young men were pupils. Here he gained a sufficient knowledge of the common branches to teach school; was examined by Judge Stephens, of Indianapolis, and received a certificate for teaching. This occupation he followed for nine years, teaching and going to school—first, in Marion County, west of Indianapolis. At this time and place, he bought an acre of land, with a cabin and other buildings, for $100. This he gave to his father his lifetime, and here his father died in 1844. His stepmother moved away in 1848, after which he sold it for $75.

Young Darby went to Butler County, Ohio, in the Fall of 1840, in the vicinity of his birth. Taught school in the Cotton Run school house. Before this ended, he took the measles, which affected his eyes very much, from which they never entirely recovered, having them operated upon several times since. Next he taught at the Seven-Mile House, among the Pennsylvania Dutch. Here was novelty and pleasure. After this school closed, in the Spring of 1842, he attended the Miami University, at Oxford. Had for his room-mate Mr. John Fegely, a German scholar. He and Mr. Darby entered as irregular scientifics; George Junkin, D. D., President. At the close of this term, he, with Mr. Fegely, recited in Greek and Latin, to a Mr. Henry R. Joselyn, at the Seven-Mile House. Here Mr. Darby learned, to a limited extent, to read these languages.

In the Spring of 1843, he attended a German school, taught by Mr. Fegely, in the beautiful and romantic section called the "Hickory Flat." At this school he learned to read and write the German language. He boarded with a rich old German farmer by the name of Sowers. He was delighted with the novelty of some of the well-prepared dishes of the table. On a large one, in the center of the table, would be sauerkraut, boiled or fried ham, sausage, eggs, noodles, potatoes, onions, etc.

Mr. Darby taught four years at Darrtown, four miles east of Oxford, and one term at Somerville. His last place, in that State, was at Jacksonburg.

In the Spring of 1847, having saved some money by his industry and economy, he bought an eighty-acre farm, twelve miles south of Indianapolis, in Johnson County, on the Bluff State road, for $600, it being but little improved.

The same year, on the 22d of July, he married Miss Catharine Service Little, of Ohio County, this State, and near Rising Sun. She was the daughter of David and Mary Little, and was born in the city of Philadelphia, Penn., January 22, 1827. Her father was of Georgia and of Irish descent; her mother was of New Jersey and of Scotch descent. They were married in New Jersey in 1816 and were the parents of six children—three sons and three daughters—Catharine S. being next to the youngest. Her father was a school teacher and died in Xenia, Ohio, in 1836, while teaching a select school at that place. Her mother's maiden name was Morgan. She died at Mr. and Mrs. Darby's residence in 1870, at the age of 72 years.

In the Spring of 1848, after marriage, Mr. Darby, with his young companion, moved from Butler County, Ohio, to their farm in this State, as before mentioned, with scarcely enough money to move them. This farm they improved by economy and hard labor, soon having it well stocked with horses, cattle and hogs. Here they lived for twelve years, suffering for the first few seasons with the burning fevers and cold chills peculiar to White River. During this time, and at this place, there were five births, as follows: Virginia Florence, born June 25, 1849; Chalmers Irving, born February 16, 1851, died in infancy; Alice Cordelia, born February 13, 1852; Frances Loretta, born January 30, 1857; Harriet Agnes, born January 20, 1859. At their present residence there were born: Clara Bell, June 20, 1865; Estelle May, October 22, 1868. These daughters are all living. Harriet Agnes is married to Mr. Arminus Acker, of Connersville.

Mr. Darby and wife, seeing the inconvenience of schools where they lived, resolved to sell and seek a more suitable location, but before selling, he visited his two brothers, Samuel and Thomas, near Xenia. He bargained for the two farms, which he afterward bought. While on the Johnson County farm, Mr. Darby subscribed $250 stock to the Evansville, Indianapolis & Cleveland Straight-line Railroad. This he paid by hard labor; lost all; road fell through and nothing refunded. This opened his eyes as to railroad building.

In January, 1860, they sold their farm to Mr. Jacob Paddock for $4,000. They also sold personal property amounting to over $1,000. In the same month, Mr. Darby bought eighty acres where he now lives for $2,300. There were but few improvements. He also bought, at the same time, a one hundred acre farm two miles southeast, in Grant County, for $2,400. They moved to their present home March 1, 1860. They set about the improvement of this farm, and soon had it and the Grant County farm well stocked with horses, cattle and hogs. Mr. Darby tried "sheep" for two or three years, but his "memorandum" showed him that there was no profit, and he quit "sheep;" but cattle raising was his delight; the beautiful stock on his pastures furnished evidence.

In 1864, he bought forty-four acres for $1,400, an addition to his homestead, making one hundred and twenty-four acres, well supplied with living water.

A few years since, Mr. Darby bought a storehouse and some goods in Xenia. He saw that he could not attend to so many "fires" at once and therefore sold it on payments. The man failed and Mr. Darby lost over $1,600. Two years since, he sold their Grant County farm for $5,000, on payments. He has ceased cultivating his land himself, but rents it out. He makes no claim as to being a No. 1 farmer, always avoiding, as much as possible, hiring labor done, but doing what he could himself, keeping as nearly "square" with the world as possible, feeling that to be the most independent way for a man to live.

Politically, Mr. Darby has never sought any office; never wanted any; never took any part in those "wire working" conventions, being contented on his farm with family and books. His first vote for President was for Martin Van Buren, and for Vice President, Col. R. M. Johnson, in 1836. At the organization of the Republican party, he voted with it. Became stringently opposed to slavery, and for several years past, uncompromisingly opposed to "secret orders," believing that they are better adapted to despotic than republican governments. Their obligations, penalties and foolish ceremonies, as he thinks, tend to lower humanity. He is anti-whisky, anti-tobacco and anti-gambling, and is opposed to those habits and principles in general that tend to degrade humanity; is a supporter of those that tend to elevate the human race.

In religion, Mr. Darby, for several years, was a ruling Elder in the Presbyterian Church. By reading history and science, and his own observations, while passing through this world, his own reason, as an intelligent being, his intercourse and dealings with men, etc., the inconsistent statements and palpable contradictions of the Scriptures themselves, both Old and New Testaments, very much convince him of the doubtful "Divine" authenticity of the Bible and the Christian religion. He reads, examines, thinks and judges for himself. This right he has and will have, and grants the same to others.

In the meantime, Mr. and Mrs. Darby have not forgotten the education and mental improvement of their children. They have received, and are receiving, a liberal common school education, furnished with an abundance of interesting literature, of which their well-filled book desks and tables give evidence, Mr. Darby having the largest library of any man in the township, many of his books being procured before his marriage. He feels an interest in the elevation and advancement in intelligence of the human race.

Mr. Darby is now over 58 years of age; Mrs. Darby is 50. They have lived at their present home more than seventeen years, having only moved twice since marriage in 1847. Have labored to improve its convenience and appearance. The sketch in this Atlas will show to some extent the result of their efforts.

J. W. ELLIS, M. D., Peru.

Dr. Ellis was born in the town of Martinsville, Clinton County, Ohio, July 3, 1827. In the Spring of 1847, he moved to Warren County, Ohio, where, in the year 1849, he began the study of medicine, in Waynesville, Ohio. In the Spring of 1850, he attended his first course of lectures, in the Eclectic Medical Institute, of Cincinnati. In the Winter session of 1850 and '51, he attended a second course at the same institute. Not being entitled to graduate until he had attended three full courses of lectures, he thought it best to gain some practical knowledge before taking his third course. With that purpose in view, he moved to Grant County, Indiana, and located in the town of Jonesboro, from which place he made his first professional visit, on the 14th day of April, 1851.

In September, 1853, he moved to Marion, the county seat, after which he returned to Cincinnati, and, in February, 1854, graduated from the Medical College, where he had formerly attended lectures—there being eighty-three graduates in the class beside himself. Returning to Marion, he continued the practice of his profession at that place, until February, 1866, when he located in the city of Peru; having been in continuous practice for twenty-seven years.

JUDGE JOHN MITCHELL, Peru.

The subject of our sketch is a native of Great Britain. He was born in the city of Bristol, England, September 24, 1829. His father was a native of Prussia, and his mother a native of England.

In November, 1833, he emigrated, with his parents, to the United States, arriving at the city of Philadelphia. He lived in Delaware and Chester Counties, Pennsylvania, until 10 years of age. He then removed, with his parents, to Wayne County, Indiana, where he remained four years. His parents then removed to Peru, Indiana, bringing their family with them, arriving on the 3d day of October, 1843.

Mr. Mitchell attended the public school, where he received a good primary education. After completing his course of study in this department, he was sent to a Seminary, at Cambridge City, Indiana, where he continued his studies one year, under the supervision of Prof. Hoshour, now of the Northwestern Christian University. At the age of 14, he learned the tailor's trade with his father, who was engaged in that occupation. This trade he followed in the city of Peru, for a number of years, devoting his spare moments to the acquisition of legal knowledge, in which pursuit he