

but qualified after reaching his twenty-first birthday. He was deputy sheriff and constable under his father for six years. Coming south, he engaged in trading horses and mules, and later entered into farming in Hernando County, Miss., for eighteen months, when the war broke out and he returned home, as it happened, on the last train on the Illinois Central, which ran from Memphis to Cairo. He then took a contract to furnish Messrs. Hall & Durkee ties for the railroad which was being built east of Shelbyville, and which is now known as the Illinois & St. Louis Railroad. About a year later, he came south and located in Devall's Bluff and Little Rock, and took a contract from the Government to furnish the Memphis & Little Rock Railroad with general supplies, which position he held from July, 1864, until the close of the war. After this he embarked in the mercantile business at Lonoke and Austin, and then purchased a place down the river, and resumed farming a few years. Taking a contract subsequently to build seventy miles of railroad for the Arkansas Central (now the Arkansas Midland), he constructed only thirty miles, as no remuneration was forthcoming and he was obliged to give it up. He was then occupied in farming for two years, after which he was appointed deputy sheriff. In 187- Mr. Flemming was nominated by the Republican Central Committee as candidate for circuit clerk, and was elected, but was counted out by the Democrats. Mr. Flemming is a strong Republican, and is a member of the Lincoln Club of Little Rock, and of the county central committee; he was appointed a delegate from Little Rock to the Liberal Republican National convention at Cincinnati. Of late years he has been a planter, but is now disposing of his stock, and is devoting his time to surveying and civil engineering. He is one of the prime movers in building the Little Rock & Choctaw Railroad, of which he is also one of the directors, and is a member of the Society of Surveyors, Engineers and Architects of Arkansas. Mr. Flemming was married in May, 1877, to Mrs. Cornelia A. Cook. They are the parents of one boy, James, now deceased. Mrs. Flemming is connected with the Second Presbyterian Church.

Hon. Thomas Fletcher, a retired merchant, and one of the most brilliant lawyers that ever practiced before the bar in Arkansas, as well as a pioneer of that State, was born in what is now Randolph County in the year 1819, and is a son of Henry Lewis and Mary (Lindsey) Fletcher, of Tennessee and Kentucky, respectively. The parents were married in Christian County, Ky., and in 1815 moved to what is now Randolph County. In 1825 they moved to that portion of Pulaski County which is now Saline, where the father died in 1840, and the mother followed him in 1856. He was one of the earliest settlers of Arkansas, and became one of its leading citizens and influential men. His father was John G. Fletcher, of Tennessee, who died in Lawrence County, Ark., in 1825, and his father-in-law, Caleb Lindsey, was a native of Christian County, Ky., and one of the earliest settlers of what is now Randolph County, Ark. Thomas Fletcher was the second child in a family of ten. He received a good common-school education in his youth, and on reaching his maturity began teaching school himself. On September 6, 1844, he was married to Lucinda, a daughter of Stephen Beaver, of Henderson County, Tenn., by whom he had a family of ten children, three daughters yet living. After his marriage he settled on a large farm in Owens Township, about fifteen miles west of Little Rock, where he resided until 1869, with the exception of two years, in which he served through the Civil War. Since then he has resided in Little Rock, and intends to make that city his future home for life. Mr. Fletcher is one of the largest land owners in Pulaski County, owning altogether about 2,500 acres. He has 1,000 acres in Owens Township that contain valuable copper, lead and silver deposits, which he is working to some extent, and from which he expects to realize considerable benefit in the near future. He also owns a granite quarry near Little Rock that has proved to be a good investment, and considerable business and residence property in that city. From 1858 to 1862, Mr. Fletcher served as sheriff of Pulaski County, and in 1862 was elected to the State legislature. In 1866 he was again elected sheriff, but after about twenty months' service was

legislated out. He was licensed to practice law and carry on a real-estate business in 1868, continuing the latter occupation up to 1880. From November, 1885, to 1888, he was appointed United States Marshal for the eastern district of Arkansas, and the discharge of his duties while occupying that position, as well as all other public offices that he has held, gave universal satisfaction. Before the war Mr. Fletcher was a Whig, but since that event he has voted the Democratic ticket, and his support of that party has been as strong as it was valuable. He is a member of Magnolia Lodge No. 60, A. F. & A. M., at Little Rock, and the Agricultural Wheel. Mrs. Fletcher, who is a devout Christian lady and attends the church of that name, has been of considerable help to her husband, in his active life, by her good advice. Their sons: Henry Lewis (is a prominent planter), Richard (a cotton dealer) and John (who has adopted his father's profession, is treading in the same path out out by the older man, and is making a fine record in the law). All three of the sons reside in Little Rock, and are among its wealthiest and most prominent citizens. Mr. Fletcher is, perhaps, the best-known citizen of Pulaski County, not only through his wealth and influence, but from his brilliant and honorable political career, which has never been excelled by any man of either party.

John F. Foley, ex-superintendent of Little Rock Cooperage Company. In any reliable history of Pulaski County, the name that heads this sketch must be given an enviable place among the business men of Little Rock. His experience has been varied, but at the same time one that reflects credit on him as a man. He was born in Galena, Ind., in 1851, grew to manhood in Lafayette, Ind., and served an apprenticeship as a cooper. He first worked at his trade in 1866, continued the same in Lafayette until 1868, when he went to Louisville, Ky., and there worked at his trade until 1872. He then went to Galveston, Tex., remained there two years, and then went back to Lafayette, where he was married and lived for eight years. He then came to Little Rock, and after working here for about ten days he became superintendent, and continued in that capacity for six years, or until

March of the present year (1889), when he embarked in the retail liquor business. He was married to Miss Mary E. Bowman, a native of Delphi, Ind., born on July 1, 1852, and three children are the result of this union: Nina, George and Joseph. Mr. Foley is the son of Samuel H. and Margaret H. (Vail) Foley. The father was born near Lexington, Ky., and worked at the cooper trade in Southern Indiana, Jeffersonville, Greenville and Galena. He was warden of Southern Indiana prison, in Jeffersonville, for two years. He was for about twenty-five years in business for himself, at Galena and Greenville, Ind. He died September 19, 1889, at Peoria, Ill., where he had been living for four years. He was a member of the Presbyterian Church, and a Republican in politics. Margaret H. Vail was the daughter of Maj. Joseph Vail, of Galena, Ind., and a native of New Jersey. He was in the War of 1812 from Ohio, and was a farmer in Galena, Ind. The paternal grandfather Foley was a native of the Old Dominion, and for many years ran a flat-boat on the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers. He died with yellow fever in Kentucky. The maternal grandfather, a Garrison, was born in England, and died in Indiana. The maternal grandmother was ninety-seven years of age at the time of her death, and the maternal grandfather was one hundred and four. The father was seventy-nine years of age. Mr. Foley is a member of the I. O. O. F.

F. L. French, M. D., city physician, Little Rock, Ark. Although young in years, Dr. French has already made for himself a representative name, and is known all over the county as a successful practitioner. He owes his nativity to Minnesota, where his birth occurred in 1860. Nine years later he came with his parents to Little Rock, and here received his literary education in the public schools. He commenced the study of medicine in 1879, in the Industrial University of Arkansas (medical department), and after passing a thorough examination, graduated in 1882. Starting his career as a practitioner in the country, at the end of a year he came to the city, and located in his present place. Here he has built up quite an extensive practice, and is a promising young physi-