

HAINS, JAMES M., merchant, manufacturer, and banker, of New Albany, was born in Harrison County, Indiana, July 31, 1818, and is one of eight children of Benjamin and Mary (Woodfield) Hains. His father, who was born in Dutchess County, New York, in the year made famous by the signing of the Declaration of Independence, was a farmer, and had settled in Harrison County in 1815. His estimable wife died when her son was only five years old. His mother's death, and other circumstances peculiar to those primitive times, limited the educational advantages enjoyed by Mr. Hains in his youth. His father died when he was seventeen years old, and from that time the young man was compelled to depend entirely upon his own resources. A year previous to this he had determined to secure a good education, and in order to provide himself with the necessary means, he obtained employment out of school hours in a hotel. This enabled him to acquire the rudiments of an English education. At the age of eighteen he apprenticed himself to a firm engaged in the hardware and queensware business, to learn the trade. He commenced in the capacity of porter, and by degrees rose to the position of clerk and salesman in the establishment. At the end of his term of apprenticeship he re-engaged himself for four years longer at an increased salary. His wages while an apprentice had been seventy-five, one hundred, and one hundred and twenty dollars a year, and from this amount he had managed to defray his expenses and save a little besides. At the expiration of the time mentioned, determined to follow out his early aspirations for a higher education, he entered the Wabash College at Crawfordsville, intending to prepare himself for the ministry. He devoted himself assiduously to his studies for two years, but his health gave way under the unaccustomed strain, and he was compelled to abandon his cherished purpose. He returned to his former business with the firm whose apprentice he had been, and remained with them two years longer. He now decided to engage in business for himself, and commenced the manufacture of tin, sheet-iron, and copper-work, in which he continued about five years, with such success that at the end of that time he retired from business. But "inactive industry" did not suit a man of his peculiar temperament, and he was soon elected president, treasurer, and general business manager of the New Albany City Gas Company, which position he held for some twenty years. During part of this time he was president of the Paoli Bank, Orange County, Indiana; and since 1865 he has been president of the New Albany National Bank. In 1869 he was made secretary, treasurer, and business manager of the New Albany Woolen and Cotton Mills, and he still holds this position. The foregoing gives some slight idea of the business capacity and untiring energy of Mr. Hains, as well as the prominent place which he occupies in his community, representing as he does its material prosperity, and occupying positions that show the implicit confidence placed in his integrity. When he had reached thirty-seven years of age, he married Miss Mary E. Dickey, daughter of Rev. John M. Dickey, a Presbyterian preacher of note, and one of the oldest pioneer preachers of the state. Mrs. Hains is a lady of the highest moral worth; her labors in behalf of every good cause have given her the warm esteem of the Christian community, and her husband has ever found in her an earnest helper in all his plans of benevolence. They have had three children, two of whom are now living. James Brooks Hains, the eldest son and a promising young man, died soon after he had graduated, with marked honors, at Wabash College, and while yet a student at the law school at Cambridge. Mr. Hains connected himself with the Presbyterian Church when only twenty years of age. He has always been a warm and liberal supporter of the cause of religion, and his heart and purse have ever been open to the deserving poor and needy. He has truly been a liberal steward

of the wealth which has been committed to him, and his benevolence has become almost proverbial in his city. He is now over sixty years old, and has been identified with almost every enterprise for the material and moral benefit of the community. In addition to occupying the positions already mentioned, he is now trustee of Wabash College, the oldest and best endowed classical college in the state of Indiana. He is justly entitled to be numbered among the foremost "representative men" of the state.