

MANN, JOHN, merchant, of New Albany, was born May 28, 1814, in Ontario County, New York. His parents, Peter and Sarah (Lyons) Mann, emigrated to Indiana in 1817, and settled in Utica, Clarke County. They had twelve children, seven sons and five daughters, all of whom became honored members of society. At this date (1879), six of the sons and one daughter are living. Mr. Mann's paternal grandfather was descended from Protestant ancestors, and emigrated to this country from Ireland; his grandmother, whose maiden name was Chandler, was of German descent. His grandparents on his mother's side were both of English ancestry, and were among the earliest settlers in the colonies. Peter Mann was born in the state of New York in 1780, and died in 1847, in Clarke County, Indiana, aged sixty-eight. His wife, born in New Jersey in 1785, died in 1860. They both united with the religious denomination known as the New Light, under the preaching of Judge Clem Nantz, in Clarke County, and were zealous, pious, and consistent Christians. The early teachings of the mother afterward proved to have been seed sown in good ground. In 1832 John Mann engaged on a fleet of steamboats in the government service, to clear out the drift in the channel of the Red River, and was thus occupied five months. These were the first steamboats that ever penetrated as far as Shreveport, Louisiana, and it took them thirty days to make the trip from Red River to New Albany, now accomplished in from five to seven days. The next two years he assisted his brother Lewis, and then, procuring a team and outfit, worked in his own interest two years more. At the end of that time, being twenty-two years of age, and feeling that his education was insufficient, he studied one term under Mr. Brownlee, and another under Mr. Kennedy, at Mt. Tabor. The next four years he spent as traveling salesman; the first for Mr. E. R. Day; the second for Kellogg & Co., both book and stationery merchants; the third for Dr. Maginness, in the sale of drugs; and the fourth on his own account, with a general assortment of light goods and notions. He then, in company with Mr. Louis Webber, fitted up a trading boat for the sale of dry-goods, groceries, and hardware, between New Albany and Memphis. He was clerk one year for Connor & Co., and for Connor & Reineking the same length of time, after which, in 1847, at the age of thirty-three – having accumulated a few hundred dollars – he engaged in an enterprise the success of which proved his good judgment. He opened a small retail grocery on Main Street, between Bank and Pearl Streets, in a room fourteen feet front by sixty deep. Here, with no help but a young boy, he continued seven years, his untiring devotion to business winning many friends. By degrees he increased his capital until, about 1860, he removed to State Street, renting a store, which he afterwards purchased. Upon this removal he restricted his business to the wholesale trade, thus dealing only with merchants, and the value of his four years' experience and wide acquaintance as traveling salesman began to be realized. In 1874, having been in business alone for twenty-seven years, Mr. Mann admitted to partnership two young men who had been in his store from boyhood, the firm name being J. Mann & Co. Five years later the name was changed to Mann & Fawcette, the junior, Mr. Elwood Fawcette, having been also in the former partnership. In 1836, under the preaching of Rev. Samuel K. Sneed, of Mt. Tabor, Mr. Mann joined the Second Presbyterian Church, and has served as deacon for several years. He is a worthy citizen, and is highly honored by all. He has been married three times: first, on the 4th of January, 1849, to Miss Amanda A. Graham, daughter of John K. and Elizabeth (Weach) Graham. She died April 14, 1851. A year later he married Miss Angeline Graham, sister of his former wife, who died May 5, 1872. Both of these sisters left the memory of lives lovely for their domestic and Christian graces; and their many excellencies have

exercised a lasting influence for good. June 25, 1873, he married Miss Mary L. Very, daughter of Martin and Eliza Very, and granddaughter of John K. Graham. April 13, 1874, his first child, John Horace Mann, was born; Mary Angeline was born December 27, 1876; Robert was born January 19, 1880. John K. Graham, whose daughters Mr. Mann married, was of Scotch-Irish descent. He came from Pennsylvania to New Albany when the latter contained but a few log houses, becoming one of the earliest settlers of Southern Indiana. He surveyed and platted the city, in the employ of the Scribners, and was employed by the state in surveying and locating the Wabash Canal. He was one of the members of the Convention that framed the old state Constitution at Corydon in 1816. He was several times elected to the state Legislature, and served with fidelity in every position to which he was called. He died in 1841. Martin Very, father of Mr. Mann's third wife, was also one of the early settlers of Floyd County. His father, Francis Very, was of French descent; and his mother, whose maiden name was Rhoda Lawrence, was of English parentage. His parents died when he was quite young; and, though in a new country, he met life's vicissitudes with an indomitable will and a stout heart. At an early day, in partnership with his brother, Lawson Very, he carried on a saw-mill on Silver Creek, about three miles from New Albany. They were among the first in the West to introduce the gang-saws for preparing lumber for steamboat hulls – steamboat building being then extensively carried on in New Albany; up to this time lumber for such purposes having been cut by the hand or whipsaw. They afterward engaged in running a flour-mill, which proved a successful enterprise. Later, Martin Very purchased his brother's interest in the mills, which were soon after destroyed by fire. He then built a steamboat, the "Ruby," which he ran in the southern trade, but it sank; and, as he had no insurance on either mills or boat, the loss was too great to be repaired. Yet his energy did not fail, but characterized his life to its latest hour. He was a member of the Third Presbyterian Church, of New Albany. In 1870, at the age of sixty-three years, he died. His daughter, Mrs. Mary L. Mann, is a lady of refined literary taste, and a thorough Bible student. Since her early youth she has been a member and an earnest worker in the Second Presbyterian Church, of her native city.