

WINSTANDLEY, JOHN B., of New Albany, is to-day one of the best known and most popular citizens of Southern Indiana, where his life from early boyhood to the mature years of nearly three-score and ten has been spent. Starting in life without means, and without the aid of influential or wealthy friends, he is the architect of his own fortune; and his life furnishes a model worthy of imitation by the young men of the present day. It is particularly remarkable that with scarcely any school training he gained the prominent and responsible positions that he has occupied for the past half century. He is of English descent; his grandfather, Henry Winstandley, having emigrated to this country and settled near Baltimore, Maryland, about the close of the Revolutionary War. In that city John B. Winstandley was born, in 1813, and went with his father when six years old to New Albany, where he remained about four years. When only eight years old he worked in a cotton-factory in New Albany. In 1822 he removed to Louisville, Kentucky, where he attended school for a short time. Three years later he accepted the offer of a clerkship in the drugstore of Robert Downey in New Albany, his salary for the first two and a half years being three dollars and fifty cents a month and board. Upon attaining his majority he formed a copartnership with his employer, and the business was continued, under the firm name of Downey & Winstandley, until 1843, when he purchased his partner's interest. W. J. Newkirk was then associated with him in the same business until 1854, and then bought the entire stock, Mr. Winstandley retiring from business altogether for a few years. On the 1st of January, 1857, he was elected assistant cashier of the Bank of Salem, and afterward cashier, which latter position he held continuously until the expiration of the charter. In connection with others he then organized the New Albany Banking House, of which he is president, and his son, Isaac S. Winstandley, cashier. In the mean time, however, in the summer of 1847, Mr. Winstandley, who has always been a Democrat, was elected by that party to the Legislature from Floyd County, defeating William Underhill, a Whig, by two votes. He was re-elected, over Blaine Marshall, by a majority of one hundred and thirty-six votes, the succeeding year, and in 1849 was elected to the Senate by a majority of one hundred and twenty-two, over Doctor P. S. Shields, and served in that capacity three years. He was elected to the city council of New Albany in 1856, 1868, 1870, and 1875, having had in all eight years' experience in that body. As school trustee in 1850 he purchased the Main Street property at a bargain, and was instrumental in having the present fine building erected thereon. It is something remarkable to have lived in the same ward for fifty years; never to have been confined to the bed from sickness for a single day in sixty-five years; never to have had occasion to sue or be sued; and, rearing a family of four children, to have incurred a doctor's bill not exceeding fifty dollars in a period of over forty years. Many interesting incidents of Mr. Winstandley's life are related by old Democrats who associated with him over a quarter of a century ago, at his drug-store known as Tammany Hall, or Democratic headquarters, but the limits of a biographical sketch preclude our indulging in details. Mr. Winstandley was married, in October, 1834, to Miss Penina B. Stewart, daughter of the late Major Isaac Stewart, one of the first settlers in Southern Indiana. Mrs. Winstandley is still living and enjoying excellent health. They have had four children, two daughters and two sons. Isaac S. Winstandley has occupied the position of teller and bookkeeper in the Bank of Salem for the past seventeen years, and is a member of the board of school trustees. William C., the other son, was appointed cashier of the Bank of Salem when only eighteen years of age, and held the position until he was twenty-one, after which he was engaged in the Branch Bank of the State at Bedford till it was closed. Then,

with some others, he established the Bedford National Bank, and was appointed cashier, which position he now holds. He has also been school trustee at Bedford for several years. One daughter is unmarried; the other is the wife of Doctor W. L. Breyfogle, well known in New Albany and Louisville as a successful physician. In conversation with a prominent citizen of New Albany, a few months ago, Hon. Thomas A. Hendricks stated that when he was a Representative from the county of Shelby in the state Legislature, being a young man, he naturally cast his mind about that body to discover a safe, sensible, and discreet leader. He watched the course of many, and in the person of John B. Winsteadley found his ideal in point of dignity, habits, sound judgment, and the elements of a trusty leader. "From that day on," said Mr. Hendricks, "he was my guiding star, and my future course was shaped from the impressions then received." Mr. Winsteadley is known for his firmness, his conscientious love of justice, duty, and real, not sham, morality. He is hopeful, and, with enough self-esteem to give him dignity and self-reliance, is not tremulous in view of responsibility. He has force of character sufficient to make his efforts effective, fine social qualities, and is deeply interested, not only in his own home, but in his neighborhood, his state, and his nation. He has an excellent memory, and such command of language as to be an easy and effective speaker. His sharp perception and keen analytical power enable him to condense a great deal of truth into crisp sentences, and his style is terse and pointed and without ornamental verbiage. In politics, as in every thing else, he has maintained the reputation of an honest man; and, although never an office-seeker, has always taken a lively interest in political affairs. Now, in his mature years, Mr. Winsteadley, after a long, busy, and eventful life, passes his days as much as possible in the quiet retreat of his suburban home, just beyond the city limits of New Albany. At a cost of about twenty thousand dollars, he has recently made the "McDonald place" in fact and in truth what he now calls it, "Sunnyside." Upon the premises is a magnificent mansion, designed after the latest and most approved style of architecture. The place is provided with convenient out-buildings, and superbly set with fruit and shade trees, rich and rare plants, and is one of the most delightful residences in the state. His inclinations are towards the Methodist faith, in which he was reared, but Mr. Winsteadley is not a member of any Church, bestowing his bounty alike upon all.