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BLOOMINGTON PROGRESS,

ISSUED EVERY WEDNESDAY, at 8¢ per year.

WILLIAM A. GARE, Editor and Proprietor

BLOOMINGTON—And some of its Business Interests.

One may travel far and wide throughout the State of Indiana before finding another town, village or city, that approximates to Bloomington in point of beauty of location, of natural resources, of extent of interests, variety, or of general trade. This is not merely our own observation, but the unanimous opinion rendered by those who are at all conversant with the city and its varied interests, and who have had occasion to contrast it with other towns in the State.

The city, county-seat of Monroe county, contains a population of about 2000, which in point of reality and intelligence may be said to far above the average. The city is located in a valley, and, above the general level, and, in consequence, has excellent drainage in all directions.

It is laid out with regularity, the streets crossing each other at right angles, and with the cardinal points of the compass— are broad, more or less provided with shade trees, sidewalks, etc. The principal streets are being Macadamized as rapidly as possible, and other improvements of a public nature are either under way or in contemplation.

Scattered throughout the town are many elegant private residences, and, property, goods, and a small or drive through the streets necessarily expresses anyone favorably as to the general character of the place and its citizens.

The L. N. A. & C. Railway divides the city into two unequal portions, the principal part of town being east of the road. Upon the east also, (with two exceptions), are the churches and other public buildings, such as the Academy or High School, the Court House, Jail, University and most of the manufacturing interests.

Bloomington drives its support from a very wealthy country surrounding it. Beside a productive soil there are countless quantities of timber, suitable for manufacturing purpose, within close proximity, and this is the natural depot for their sale, manufacture or shipment. A large area of country is tributary to the city in many ways, and the development of Bloomington thus far has been upon a sound, not speculative basis.

Scattered from the resources of the surrounding country, Bloomington has within itself, for years, a source of growth, humanizing, elevating in its nature—its school system. Beside the public schools (we mean those grad'd below the Normal) the presence of the State University here has been productive of innumerable good, attracting hitherward the best elements of society, and surrounding young and old with an air of refinement. The city is provided with unusually good public schools, and where the new High School building is completed, (as it will be in the Spring,) there will be little to be wished for in these respects.

As we have said, Bloomington boasts possession of the State University, the leading scholastic institute of the State, which is supported by the State, and in which tuition is free. Its corps of professors embraces the names of men who stand upon the same intellectual plane with the most gifted minds of Harvard or Yale. The Alumnus, the organ of the intellectual men who have proved giants among their fellows, and the institution has conferred a world-wide name upon our proudest little city. At home its presence has been no less beneficial. It has caused vice and immorality to hide themselves. It has educated our people, whether students or no, and it is the leading attraction—the one above all others constituting Bloomington a desirable "place of location." We can urge the Alumnus to come to us too strongly. These institutes of learning emanate from the people for the people—the rich, the poor, the learned, the unlearned are all at liberty to drink at the Pierian spring, whose waters flow in such profusion, and we say it, not boastfully, that Bloomington offers better educational advantages than any other town in the State.

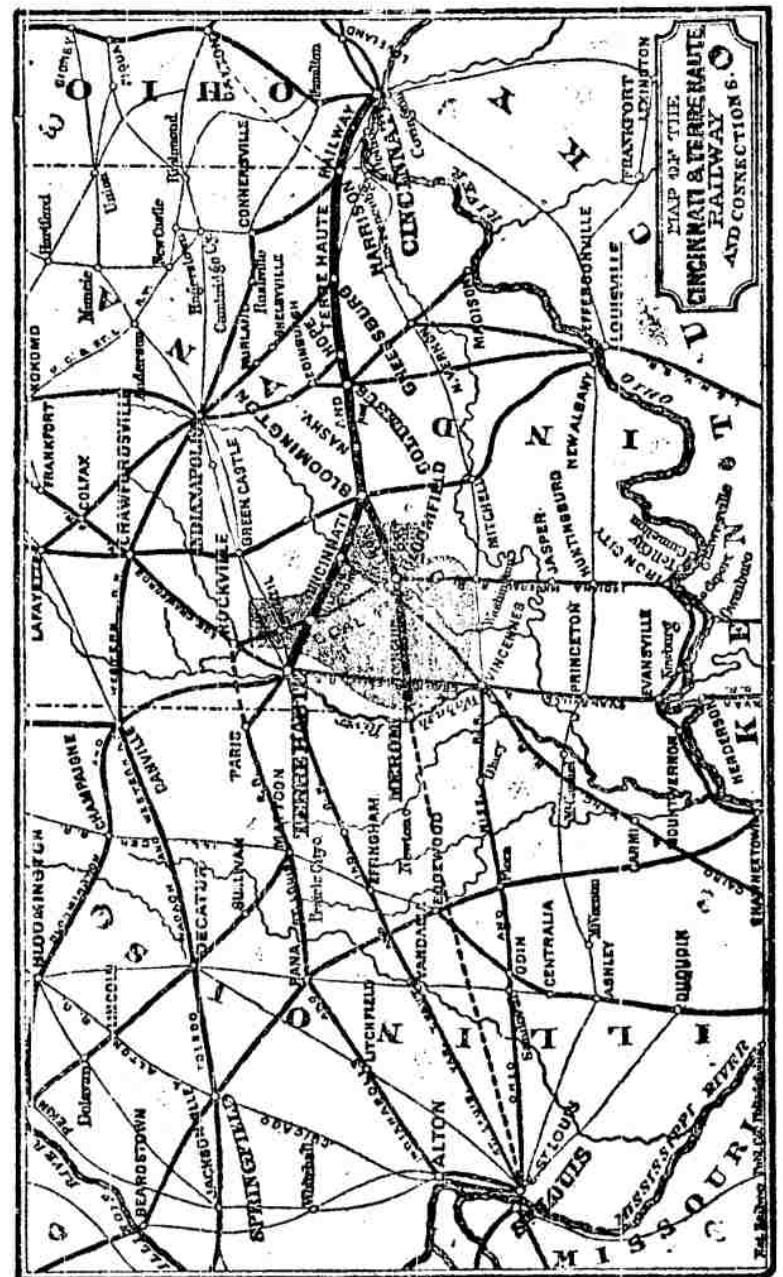
Walking hand in hand with the schools, are our church organizations, inculcating lessons of morality and usefulness. Of Presbyterian, United Presbyterian, Christian, Meth. dist., Colored Methodist, Catholic and Baptist, and about a half a mile from town the Scotch Covenanters have a house of worship. The Episcopalians are just organizing a society, and will doubtless soon take steps leading to the erection of a church. Most of the churches are of a superior order, especially this being the case with the Presbyterian.

Of material advantages, our Railroad intersects us from the low right of the town, we are dependent upon the Louisville, New Albany & Chicago road. Another railway, the Cincinnati & Terre Haute road, (of which we present a map this week,) will soon be added to the list. The probabilities are that the road will diverge at this point, one arm will diverge to Terre Haute, the other to St. Louis. Of course this will add greatly to the benefit Bloomington will derive from the connection of the road. It will open up to us the coal and iron interests of the State; it will give us ingress in numerous directions, and will make Bloomington one of the most important railway centers of the State, with direct connection with the four largest Western Cities, Cincinnati, St. Louis, Louisville and Chicago, and with the complicated net work of railways which radiate from the n. The road is certain to be built, and it is equally certain that this will be the point of junction with the L. N. A. & C. road. The effects are easily apprehensible and do not require dilating upon.

Now comes to a consideration of the more prominent manufacturing and mercantile interests of Bloomington. Speaking of them we will avail to do so in an impartial, unbiased, and yet personal manner. First we invite attention to the large tanning business of JOHN WALDRON.

This is a concern of no little importance, and is second to but very few in the State. The buildings are of brick, conveniently located near the Depot. The main building is 25 by 122 feet, the front 72 feet being three stories high, the remainder two. There is also a back shed 70 by 80 feet, and a hide house. In the business, from 18 to 30 men are employed. Steam is used, to perform every operation, for which there is a large and all of the machinery, etc., upon the most approved plan. From 600 to 700 cts. of bark are yearly used, all of which is obtained from the northeast part of the country. One hundred vats are required, and about 3,500 hives are annually annexed, besides perhaps 1,000 kgs. and cts.kins. He also buys large quantities of leather "in the rough." When ready for market, these products are shipped mainly to Indiana and Illinois. Mr. Waldron has made Bloomington his home since

**Map of the
CIN. & TERRE HAUTE R. R.,
Showing its Connections, the Coal and Iron
Fields: also the proposed Cin. & St. Louis R.
R., crossing the Wabash at Merom.**



plated or upright carved cases, each reflecting back the glitter and beauty of its possessions. Everything in the jewelry, silverware, clock, watch, or toy lines—artificial *reverie* or *use*, that the mind or the soul of woman longed after, is here in profusion. Mr. Smith owns his business for causes—not the least being the invariable *bonhomie* that has always characterized him, and "Tobe" Smith and geniality are synonymous terms.

W. O. FEE

Is another old resident of Bloomington and vicinity. Forty years ago he had removed here from South Carolina—for five years he had been a planter, and had sold his goods here as a clerk a couple of three years, and from 1830 until '45 was in trade at Morganton. Since 1844 or '45 he has been actively engaged in business here, alone, with the exception of four years. Now-a-days if a young man commences trade he must have a capital of several thousand dollars, and the chances are that he will fail within five years. It was not so thirty or forty years ago. Mr. F. commenced business at the princely expense of \$100. He had no money to expend, but was compelled to rely upon his own energy, economy and business foresight to succeed. That he has not labored in vain is self evident. He has had an active life, but it is not stained by a dishonorable action—he has relied upon himself, and the honor should be his. His example may be profitably studied by some of the young men of to-day.

MCCALLA & CO.

As a firm and as individuals, need no commendation at our hands, and yet we desire to speak of them in brief. Their line of trade is dry goods and general merchandise, and the firm has been in operation eight years. John H. McCalla, the senior partner, in 1835 he came here from South Carolina, remaining on a farm until '37, in partnership with his brother, commenced business. In 1852 they removed to Chicago, remaining there until '57 or '58, then cutting out of trade until this firm was formed. Milton Hight, the "Co." of the firm, is a native of this vicinity. His father, Jno. Hight, who is still living, having come here in 1818, farmed w. his occupation until 25 years of age. Then he engaged in retail trade business for 15 years. For 5 or 6 years, by doing nothing specially 8 years ago forming the present partnership. The firm comprises two men well known for their energy and high-toned business principles and, by years of daily intercourse with our people, they have not only deserved but gained universal confidence. No house in town is better prepared to supply the wants of customers, and none are more worthy a generous patronage.

PEARSON & CO.

Dealers in general merchandise, are doing a thriving business on the north side of the square, and we interview Mr. P., finding him as pleasant a gentleman as we have met in the city. He has been in business with his brother, Jno. Hight, who had been one of our leading drug houses here, for four years. Since then he has been in business with his son, Alfred R. Howe—a young gentleman, graduate of the University and who has been in the store for the past two years. The years that have come and gone since then have been most eventful.

W. J. ALLEN

Is worthy a prominent place in this connection, while we gladly give. He is a native of this town, and has been here since 1854 his life, and the present large business has been built up solely by his own exertions. From time to time he has enlarged and remodeled the works, until there is not now a vestige of the old concern. Though a self-made man, he is in every respect a self-made man. His start in life was obtained strictly by his own exertions, and the mercantile success attained by him has been the legitimate result of unwavering integrity. For the past sixteen years he has been here, and Mr. Waldron bought him out. His own capital was limited at that time, and the present large business has been built up solely by his own exertions. From time to time he has enlarged and remodeled the works, until there is not now a vestige of the old concern. Though a self-made man, he is in every respect a self-made man. 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