

industry and perseverance, as well as following the true laws of business, has not only carved out for himself an honored name, reflecting credit on his business integrity and sagacity, but has, as a reward for a long life of labor and toil, accumulated quite a fortune. Captain Honshell's career as an Ohio steamboat commander covers more years than the town of Catlettsburg. The Captain's splendid packets were always the pride of Catlettsburg and Sandians. He made it a rule to build the best boats that plied upon the Ohio, to furnish them in the most comfortable and tasteful manner, and when it came to the *cuisine*, he had a *menu* prepared more like unto a wedding-feast than the fare of many first-class steamboats. To crown all, he always manned his boat with officers whose politeness, like his own, was of the most refined and gentlemanly type. The trips made by the Honshell line of steamers, twice a week for a quarter of a century, between Catlettsburg and Cincinnati, were so regular, observing such close time, starting and arriving with the promptitude of a dial, that the ringing of their bell or the sound of their whistle served to mark the time of day and day of the week. Promptitude has been one secret of his success. Through the liberality of Captain Honshell, the merchants of Catlettsburg had all the advantages of a first-class express company. He has carried on his boats untold thousands of dollars, remittances of business men to wholesale dealers in Cincinnati.

and other towns below, without charging a cent for the labor and responsibility; and so carefully were these treasures guarded that the author has never heard of a single package failing to reach its proper destination.

Of course, though a very hale man, and by no means incapacitated to stand on the hurricane roof and command a boat, his great experience in steamboat affairs and management called him to a more important, if not so active a field of usefulness. For quite a number of years past he has been one of the leading owners and managers of more than one important line of steamers. For some years his business called him to temporarily reside in Cincinnati, yet he never ceased to make Catlettsburg his real home from the time he pitched his tent on the ground before Fry had finished the plat.

The captain for a year or so has grown more local in his movements, and is doing much to add to the prosperity of the town by the erection of a number of first-class tenement-houses; setting an example for some capitalists to follow, supplying tenants with the conveniences of a first-class homestead; proving that he believes they have some rights which even landlords should respect. But this is just like Captain Honshell.

Captain and Mrs. Honshell are the parents of four children—three daughters and one son. They are all married. The oldest daughter is the wife of Millard F. Hampton; the youngest married Mr.

R. F. Williamson; and both live in their beautiful homes in Catlettsburg. The other daughter is the wife of Lindsay Kelly, a gentleman well-known and esteemed as a prominent business man and social gentleman of Ironton, Ohio. Augustus, the son, is also, like his sisters, happily married; he lives in Cincinnati, where he holds an important position in the steamboating business.

The excellent and thorough training of their children, both domestically and in the best schools, has brought back a handsome return to the parents for their trouble, by the honorable positions their offspring occupy in life.

Captain Honshell's family are active working members of the Presbyterian Church; and he also takes a deep interest in its success, liberally contributing of his means to aid in carrying on its material work. The captain is a liberal Republican in politics, but will vote for no unfit man for office, whatever his political professions.

THE MURPHY FAMILY.

IN the year 1837 the Murphy family, destined to fill an honorable position in society in the early days of Catlettsburg's history, moved to their farm at Beech Grove, two miles from the Mouth of the Sandy, where Floyd Runyon now lives (1886). James K. Murphy, the husband and father, was of Irish lineage, while his wife, as her maiden name,

Gordon, indicates, came of Scotch or Scotch-Irish ancestry. Both were natives of Western Pennsylvania. Mr. Murphy in religion was a Catholic, while Miss Gordon was a strict Presbyterian. In Shippingsport, the town where she lived and was educated, the inhabitants were in an early day not only members of that influential denomination, but were great sticklers for implicit belief in the doctrines of Calvin and his coadjutors. Miss Gordon became dissatisfied with the doctrine, and adopted the Arminian system of belief. She left the Church of her ancestors, greatly to their sorrow, and united with the Methodists, in which communion she died. Her history would be incomplete without this reference to her religious views; for it shows up the main features in her long and useful life; a trait more than any other in the make-up of her symmetrical character was her great devotion to what she considered truth. She was the widow of — Mundus, whom she had previously married; but he, dying soon after, left her with the care of children.

When Mr. Murphy met her at her home in her native town, he was charmed with her grace of person and mental culture, sued for her hand and heart, and soon wedded her as his wife. They shortly after came to Catlettsburg, where Mr. Murphy carried on the business of tailoring, working himself and employing journeymen up to near the time of his death, which occurred in 1849.

Mr. Murphy erected good, comfortable buildings for his dwelling and shop, planted fruit-trees, shrubbery, and flowers, and made the place in that day look like a home for the fairies, such exquisitely good taste did his accomplished wife and their young daughters display.

Four daughters were born of the union of Mr. Murphy and Mrs. Mundus (*née*) Gordon. The eldest daughter married a Mr. McClure, of Burlington, Ohio. She died in middle life, leaving a family of children, who, under their father's faithful watch-care, came to man's and woman's estate clothed in honor and respectability. The next daughter married George Chappell, and, like her eldest sister, died leaving ungrown children, four in number—two boys and two girls. The father, Mr. Chappell, being a man of poor health, could do but little in providing for the support and training of his offspring. So this onerous duty fell on the family of the Murphys, and was shared bravely alike by the grandmother and the aunts, Misses Anna and Julia. And no people ever were more faithful to a self-imposed trust than were they.

Mr. Murphy failed to leave great wealth to his widow and children at his death, although they were by no means destitute, owning a good little farm and surroundings; but they possessed that kind of wealth more valuable than stores and bank-stock, the legacy of willing hands to work, educated intellects to guide and direct, and hearts full

of love going out after the dependent ones, causing them to feel that no labor, be it ever so hard, was too great to perform, if, by their sacrifices, the four children might grow to places of honor and usefulness in the world.

Mrs. Murphy was housekeeper and manager; Miss Anna was the teacher of the Chappell children, and also taught many of the neighboring children. It was a busy home, but by no means a dull one. Books on Science, Biography, Travels, Theology, and the range of general literature were found in the library of the Murphys; and, what is still more to their credit, they were not only read but studied.

Mrs. Murphy was a fluent conversationalist, and would discuss propositions in theology and political economy with the experts in those problems in a keen, logical way that was rare in a woman. The entire family kept abreast of the times by reading the current literature of the day found in books, magazines, and papers.

We have stated that the mother was the controlling power of the household after her husband's death, and that Miss Anna applied her mind and energy to teaching, while Miss Julia, as if catching the inspiration from her father, applied herself to the work of the needle, not in the construction of men's garments, but in making the fine dresses for the ladies; and while the fashionable dress-makers of the present time stand high as correct *modistes*,

they have no better reputation for first-class work than had Miss Julia, assisted by her mother and sister Anna. From 1850 to 1865 they were at the very head and front in fashionable dress-making. The trousseaus of many blushing brides of Catlettsburg and the neighboring towns were the tidy work of these ladies. Not only were they the artists who prepared wedding garments for the better-to-do people, but their philanthropy caused them to volunteer to prepare habiliments to enrobe the dead. They were invited and welcome guests at the weddings of the rich and prosperous, and were thrice welcome at the house of mourning, where they administered words of consolation to the drooping, relieved the sick, and smoothed the pillow of the dying. Their social qualities were of a high order. For many years after the war many of the most wealthy and refined people of Catlettsburg thought it fortunate to spend a day at the delightful country home of the Murphys, so hearty was their welcome and so well did they know how to entertain.

With all their broad philanthropy, the family, including mother and daughters, had one great object in view above all else, which was to educate and train for usefulness in life the two sons and two daughters left to them by Mrs. Chappell. To this end they made many sacrifices, even moving to Ironton, Ohio, for a time, that the children might enjoy the advantages of the schools of that place. Under such training, of course, the children,

on coming to mature age, were well educated. Albert served a term faithfully in the Union army. William, the younger, engaged in clerking. The young ladies, Georgia and Julia, two beautiful girls, engaged in teaching. Their aunt, Miss Anna, died in 1867; both brothers and sisters soon followed the aunt, each dying within less than a year of the other, in 18—, leaving the aged grandmother, Miss Julia, and William Murphy, an old bachelor brother of James K., who lived with the family from the time of his brother James's death in 1849, until his own, in 1877.

Mrs. Murphy died about 1876, leaving no one of the once numerous family but Miss Julia, who has since sold the place, and now lives in town, still fresh and bright, carrying sunshine wherever she goes. She has a competency sufficient to chase dull care away, and passes along life's pathway, gathering flowers in the performance of acts of kindness and deeds of love and mercy, and weaving all into a garland more bright and fragrant than the great possessions of the uneducated miser.