

OLIN M. FARBER.

Mansfield has long been distinguished as the center of a law practice as brilliant as it has been solid and substantial. It has afforded good opportunities for advancement to young lawyers of ability, and many such have sought worldly success and professional distinction in its courts. Among the more prominent young lawyers of the Richland county bar during recent years none has been more deservedly successful and popular than Olin M. Farber. His thorough preparation for admission to the bar, his recognized ability as a public speaker and tact in the trial of cases, have given him professional prestige, while a strict adherence to the ethics of his profession and his manifest interest in the public welfare, coupled with a warm geniality, have made him popular.

Olin M. Farber is the eldest of three children of Harmon Farber and Esther J. (Olin) Farber, both natives of Richland county, and was born at Bryan, Ohio, June 15, 1869, where his father was operating a stave mill in partnership with a brother-in-law, M. C. Moores. When this son was about six months old his parents returned and his father engaged in the business of blacksmithing and carriage building in Belleville, and so continued until the fall of 1883, when he opened a hardware store and is now the senior member of the firm of H. Farber & Son, of that town. Harmon Farber served as a private of Company C, Sixty fourth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, during the war of the Rebellion. He has been honored by the people of Belleville and Jefferson township with the office of township trustee for two terms, township treasurer three terms, and member of the Belleville board of education for two terms. As a member of the Democratic county executive committee and otherwise he has exercised an appreciable influence in county politics. His son and partner, Harry Benton Farber, is now serving as the township clerk.

Peter Farber, the father of Harmon Farber and grandfather of Olin M. Farber, was a substantial farmer of Richland county. He in turn was a son of Harmon Farber, a millwright, who died at the Hammond home near Butler while on his way overland with his family from Blair county, Pennsylvania, to the state of Indiana, where he had purchased a large tract of land. He was buried in the Mount Carmel church cemetery, and his fam-

ily returned to Pennsylvania with the exception of Peter, who married Margaret Ramsey and located in Perry township. His wife, the grandmother of Olin M. Farber, came of old Revolutionary stock, whose names grace the muster roll of the continental army. Besides Harmon, another of their sons, William H. Farber, when but nineteen years of age enlisted as a private in the war of the Rebellion and by valiant service attained the rank of captain of Company F, Sixty-fourth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and served during the whole war. After the war he made an excellent record as a public official, having filled the positions of deputy clerk and deputy auditor of Richland county, and after moving to Columbus, the position of statistician under State Auditor Poe for two terms. He was then transferred to the office of State Insurance Commissioner Matthews, where he remained until his death in February, 1898, and was buried at Mansfield. He left one son, Charles, who resides at Columbus, in the employ of The State Savings & Trust Company.

On the maternal side Olin M. Farber's ancestry can be traced for centuries. His grandfather, Nathaniel Green Olin, attracted by the golden promises of the "west," moved with his then growing family from Shaftsbury, Vermont, to the county of Richland. He was an industrious farmer and stock man, and was the owner of a large and beautiful tract of land in the Clear Fork valley, three miles west of Bellville. He was directly descended from John Olin, the founder of the Olin family in America, and, for that matter, in the world, as he was the first of that name. The family of Olin, therefore, is not large nor of many branches, but all of that name are closely related. John Olin's real name was Llewellyn, a direct descendant of Prince Llewellyn and his wife Eleanora, the last of the royal family of the Welsh when Wales passed under the dominion of the English crown. History says: "In the last struggle for Welsh independence Prince Llewellyn fell in a sudden skirmish at Builth, in the valley of the Wye; his head was sent to Edward, who placed it on the walls of the Tower of London crowned with an ivy wreath in mockery of a prediction of Merlin, that when the English money should become circular the Prince of Wales should be crowned in London." After six months David, a brother of the prince, was tried before a parliament summoned to meet at Shrewsbury and suffered the penalty of treason. The family was scattered and persecuted by English rulers for generations.

In 1678 John Llewellyn, a youth of fourteen years, was seized on the coast of Wales and pressed on board a British man of war, where he was forced to act as "powder monkey." On the arrival of the vessel in Boston Harbor the youngster deserted, took to the woods, changed his name to

Olin and finally settled at East Greenwich, Rhode Island. From his loins has sprung an able family, many of whom have distinguished themselves in the higher walks of life. Among them may be mentioned Stephen Olin, D. D., once the president of Wesleyan University and a leading divine of the Methodist church; Job S. Olin, a brother of the grandfather of Olin M. Farber, one of the judges of the court of the District of Columbia; while of the present generation there is Stephen H. Olin, of the law firm of Olin, Rives & Montgomery, New York city; also John M. Olin, an uncle of Olin M. Farber, who, in connection with his extensive law practice, is a lecturer in the law department of the University of Wisconsin, at Madison. Some years ago he was a candidate for governor of the state of Wisconsin on the Prohibition ticket and received an enormous vote. Another of this name is a professor in Buchtel College, Akron, Ohio.

Olin M. Farber completed a fourteen-year course in the Bellville public schools and graduated with the honors of his class June 3, 1887. He was an industrious youth and outside of school hours and during his vacations his time was spent clerking in his father's store, working on a farm of his father's, or toiling all summer long in the hot sun in a brick yard. His father gave him and each of his sons all possible encouragement along the lines of education, and in the fall of 1887 he entered the University at Wooster, Ohio, and after spending three years there he went to the Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, at which institution he graduated in the classical course, June 18, 1891. He received honors from both universities, not for making the highest grades in text-book lore, although he was among the foremost of his class in this respect, but by being selected to represent the university, or his class, or his literary society, on public occasions and contests. He went in for the broader culture of the university by making special use of the library, taking extra studies, doing college newspaper work, and being active in field athletics. He became a ready debater and was awarded the junior oratorical prize open to contest for the members of his class at Wooster. At Cornell he was awarded the Woodford prize for oratory open to members of the senior class. At graduation he was, on recommendation of the faculty, elected to the professorship of English literature in Carthage College, at Carthage, Illinois. He occupied this chair for one year and resigned to accept a more lucrative one as the superintendent of the public schools at Litchfield, Michigan. He resigned this position and spent the summer of 1893 in the law office of Powell, Owens, Ricketts & Black, Columbus, Ohio, where he entered upon the study of his long cherished profession. In the fall of that year he entered the law office of Douglass & Douglass, in Mansfield, Ohio, where he diligently pursued his studies until March 8,

1894, when he was admitted to the bar at Columbus, Ohio. He retained a connection with this term until May 15, 1897, when he entered into partnership with H. L. Bowers, under the firm name of Farber & Bowers, which continued until December 1, 1899, when Mr. Bowers retired from the practice. Since then Mr. Farber has enjoyed a lucrative and growing practice, with offices in the Dickson building. He has been chancellor commander of Madison Lodge, No. 26, Knights of Pythias, is a member of the K. O. T. M., M. W. of A., of the Three Link Club and of the First Presbyterian church. He is prominent socially.

In politics Mr. Farber is a sterling Democrat and prominent in the councils of his party. Since his admission to the bar he has taken an active interest in campaign work, and on March 2, 1901, was rewarded by being nominated for the office of city solicitor, receiving more votes than his opponents taken together. He was elected by the handsome majority of three hundred and twenty-four over his opponent, James M. Reed, an attorney of established reputation, and entered upon the duties of the office May 7, 1901.