

Anstett, and in the spring of 1889 was elected Justice of the Peace of the Third Ward to serve for a period of five years. He was re-elected in 1894 for the succeeding five years, having his office at No. 209 North Main Street. Since 1891 he has been Assessor of the ward, to which position he was chosen by election, and in 1894 was elected Borough Clerk. In the Third Ward he has never had any opposition, having been returned by a good Democratic majority. For five years he was a School Director of Bethlehem Township, and for one year has been President of the Board. In politics he votes with the Democratic party, and fraternally is a member of the Mystic Chain, of which he is a Past Officer. Religiously he is in sympathy with the Reformed Church, which he regularly attends. Mr. Kiehline numbers many friends in this city, for he is genial and courteous in his treatment of all, and thus readily wins commendation.



THOMAS H. RITTER has made a fine success of the butcher's business, having one of the finest markets to be found in Bethlehem. He superintends the buying of his stock personally, selects only the finest to be had, and justly merits the fine trade he has acquired. A gentleman in the best sense of the word, he is active in local affairs, and numbers a host of warm friends.

The birth of Mr. Ritter occurred March 22, 1859, in Freemansburg. His great-grandfather Ritter, a native of Germany, was a farmer and an early settler in Rittersville. Grandfather Henry Ritter was born in that village, where he kept a hotel, and it was for him that the town was named. For some years he served as Postmaster of the place, and was a good business man. His wife, who died at the age of eighty-six years, was a devoted Lutheran, to which faith he also adhered. Lewis Ritter, the father of Thomas H., was also born in Rittersville, and followed the occupation of blacksmithing. Locating at Freemansburg, he carried on a shop at that place until the North-

ampton Furnace was built, when he took charge of the blacksmith department. He was accidentally killed, being run over by a passenger engine in 1871, when in the prime of life, aged forty-six years. His wife, who in her girlhood was Mary Henn, was born in Lower Saucon, Northampton County, and was a daughter of George Henn, a farmer in that locality, and also a Mason. Mrs. Lewis Ritter is still living, making her home at Freemansburg. Four of her six children are living: George; Ellen, Mrs. Knipe; Thomas H. and Oscar—all in this city.

Mr. Ritter, the subject of this sketch, was reared in Freemansburg until his thirteenth year, receiving a common-school education. Then he went to Easton, where for nearly four years he was a clerk for Owen Reich, a grocer. Later coming to Bethlehem, he served an apprenticeship as a machinist under Henry Truwbower, of the Bethlehem Iron Company. Nine years of steady work with that concern followed, when, on account of overwork, and owing to the fact that he could no longer endure the gas, he was obliged to leave the business, and in the fall of 1884 started in his present occupation. In the spring of 1885 he located on East Goepp Street, where he bought and built up a place. Beginning on a small scale, with only one wagon for delivery, his trade gradually increased, and in a year's time he was running two wagons. The third year his business was enlarged, and in 1888 he took in, as a partner, William Winsch, the firm being known as Ritter & Winsch until 1890, when Mr. Ritter purchased his partner's interest, and has since continued alone. In addition to his regular line of trade, he has built up a slaughter-house refrigerator. The latter is 24x24 feet in dimensions, with a capacity of two hundred tons of ice, and the slaughter-house is 30x65 feet in dimensions. In connection with this are smoke houses, sheds, stables, etc. For general purposes steam-power is used with a four-horse engine and an eight horse-power boiler. The refrigerator is Brower's patent, the best known for the business. In addition to his local trade he sends meats to Freemansburg and other near points.

On the 16th of March, 1879, Mr. Ritter married

Miss Dora Keiper, daughter of Jacob Keiper, a brick-layer of this city. They are the parents of three children: Emily, Raymond and Robert. The family attend the Bethany Evangelical Church, of which Mr. Ritter is Trustee and Steward. A true-blue Republican, he is also a member of the Royal Arcanum. Actively interested in local affairs, he is connected with the Masonic Building and Loan Association, and supports all useful enterprises.



REV. J. S. ERB is the beloved pastor of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Slatington. He is a native of Montgomery County, this state, having been born in Douglass Township, September 16, 1847. His early life was spent in attendance at the public school, and when a lad of sixteen years he began to teach, continuing for several terms. Later he became a student at Mt. Pleasant Seminary, at Boyertown, this state, and while there made the most of his opportunities.

Our subject is the son of David Erb, also a native of Montgomery County, where he departed this life June 25, 1881, when in the seventy-sixth year of his age. He was followed to the better land by his good wife, who died in February, 1893, when eighty-three years of age.

The Erb family in America came from Hesse-Darmstadt, Germany, and located in Montgomery County in an early day. They were mostly farmers by occupation. The maiden name of our subject's mother was Julia Steltz, a native of the above county, and the daughter of Valentine Steltz, whose ancestors originally came from Switzerland.

In the fall of 1870, Mr. Erb entered the Sophomore class in Muhlenberg College, and graduated in 1873, with the degree of Bachelor of Arts. That year he became a student in the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, it being his intention to prepare himself for the ministry; three years later he was graduated, and was ordained

to preach in the year 1876. Immediately after his ordination he took charge of St. John's Church at Slatington. The membership was very small compared with what it is to-day, for it then numbered only a little over one hundred members, and at the present time has an enrollment of nearly five hundred. Mr. Erb was instrumental in the erection of the new church edifice, which was completed in 1882 at a cost of \$10,000.

In 1890 our subject was elected Secretary and Treasurer of the Second District Conference of the Ministerium of Pennsylvania, which position he held for four years. October 17, 1876, Rev. J. S. Erb was married to Miss Anzonette Leh, a native of Catasauqua, and the daughter of Reuben Leh, an old settler in that city, where his decease occurred in 1885. Her mother prior to her marriage was Catherine Berlin, and was born in Northampton County, this state. To our subject and his wife have been born two sons and a daughter: Frederick Luther, Edmund Melancthon and Helen Leh.



WILLIAM WALP, an honored resident of Bethlehem, bears the distinction of being the oldest furniture dealer in the city, having been engaged in that business since 1866. He also has a fine undertaking establishment in connection with this line of trade, and is classed among the well-to-do and highly esteemed merchants of the place. He was born in Bucks County, this state, March 17, 1834, and is the son of James Walp, also a native of that place, but the father of James Walp, who bore the name of William Walp, hailed from Germany. James Walp was a carpenter and contractor by occupation, which business he followed after his removal to Saucon Township, Lehigh County. In 1850, however, he located in Bethlehem, where he worked at his trade until his decease, when in the seventy-second year of his age. He was a devoted member of the Lutheran Church, in the work of which society he always took a deep interest. His wife

was known in her maidenhood as Catherine Fluck, a native of Northampton County, having been born near Leithsville. She departed this life at the age of seventy-one years.

The parental family of our subject included two sons and three daughters, of whom he is the eldest. He remained in Saucon until a lad of sixteen years, when he began learning the carpenter's trade under the instruction of his father. He afterward worked for John Walp, a prominent builder of Bethlehem in that day, and remained with him until embarking in the furniture business in 1866. His first partner was a Mr. Gerstner, and they continued to operate together in the manufacture of all kinds of furniture for two years, when the connection was dissolved, and our subject carried on the business under the firm name of William Walp & Co. until 1875, since which time he has been the sole proprietor.

In 1885 Mr. Walp built his present place of business at No. 17 North Main Street. It is a two-story and basement structure, 22x100 feet in dimensions. The first floor is used for his furniture department, the second is devoted to the undertaking outfit, and the basement serves as the workshop. Mr. Walp is a graduate of the Sullivan School of Embalming of Philadelphia, and in this branch of his business has been exceedingly successful.

William Walp was married in this city in 1855 to Miss Mary Beidler, a native of Pottsville. She departed this life in 1891, having become the mother of nine children, seven of whom lived to mature years. Alice is the wife of Daniel G. Wiggins, of this city; Annie and Minnie are at home with their brother William; Edward is residing in Easton; William is a pharmacist; Emma died in 1884, and James passed away at the age of twenty-five.

Mr. Walp has his residence located in West Bethlehem, to which portion of the city he removed in 1872. He has been very prominent in local affairs, and served as a member of the first Borough Council in West Bethlehem, of which he was President for one year. He has been School Director for five years, and socially is a charter member of the Knights of Honor, in which he has

passed all the chairs, and was Representative to the Grand Lodge for one year. He belongs to the State Association of Undertakers, and is an ardent Democrat, and influential in the political life of the community. He is a member of the Trinity Lutheran Church, to the support of which he is a willing and liberal contributor.



A J. BECKER, M. D., a rapidly advancing young physician of Catasauqua, has been engaged in practice for about nine years, and at the present time has his office at No. 728 Second Street. His ancestors for several generations have taken a leading part in the development and improvement of this region, and have always been patriotic and public-spirited men. His great-grandfather, Rev. Christian L., was born and reared in Germany, becoming a minister in the Reformed Church. In middle age he brought his family to America, settling near Easton, and later removing to Baltimore, where his death occurred. The grandfather, Jacob C., was born in Bremen, Germany, and received his education at Franklin and Marshall College, Lancaster, from which he graduated with the degree of Master of Arts, after studying theology with his father, and being ordained as a minister in the Reformed Church. His pastorates were principally in Northampton County, and his death occurred in Bethlehem in August, 1858, when he was sixty-eight years of age. His wife, Susannah (Dreisbach) Becker, was a native of Howertown, and daughter of Jacob Dreisbach, a farmer. Mrs. Becker died when almost ninety years of age, at the home of her son, Rev. Cyrus J.

The gentleman last named is the father of our subject, and has been Pastor in the Reformed Church of this city since 1858. His birth occurred in Allen Township in 1827, and he attended the common schools near his home subsequent to going to Easton, where for four years he was a pupil in Vanderveer Academy. Later he entered the Junior