

JOSEPH B. COBB.

In this period of the world's history the skilled mechanic occupies a prominent and a most useful place in the economy of every-day life and public progress. The blacksmith was one of the original mechanics and since the iron age was ushered in has been an important factor in mechanical development. Through all the years that have elapsed since his advent in the world, he has kept pace with the march of mechanical improvement and has been a useful citizen, honored for his good works, wherever his lot has been cast. As a pioneer he was an indispensable factor in our early development, and from the days of small things to those of the present he has wielded a powerful influence in almost every community in the Union. Woodstown has had its historic blacksmiths and it has its skilled and influential artisans of to-day. One of the best known of these is the gentleman whose name constitutes the title of this sketch.

Joseph Butcher Cobb was born in Sharpstown, Salem county, New Jersey, August 4, 1839, a son of Paul and Eliza (Garretson) Cobb, and his father, who was a blacksmith, was his instructor in all the details of his laborious but increasing trade. Paul Cobb's life spanned the period from October 4, 1812, to February 2, 1880, and was passed primarily in Cape May county, New Jersey, and partially in Salem and Gloucester counties, its closing years having been spent in Woodstown. His father was Paul Cobb, who was born in Cape May county, New Jersey, October 4, 1762, and died March 28, 1818. Paul Cobb, Jr., had one brother, John, and five sisters, named Rhoda, Elizabeth, Jane, Rebecca and Priscilla. He married Eliza Garretson, a daughter Daniel and Sarah Garretson, of Cape May county, New Jersey, whose brothers and sisters were named Jane R., Hannah, Jonathan and Jacob. The children of Paul Cobb, Jr., and his wife, Eliza Garretson, were Amanda, who married Charles S. Shull; Daniel G., a resident of Philadelphia; Joseph B., of Woodstown; John W., of Philadelphia; Sarah, wife of William Richman, of Philadelphia; Eva B., who married Amos Webster; and Anna B.

In 1857, when he was eighteen years old, Joseph B. Cobb began to learn his trade of his father and brother, in the former's shop. He was an apt apprentice and made such progress as was considered altogether favorable by his rather critical instructor, who at length pronounced him a master of his trade. He was married before he was twenty-two and for a year afterward worked at his trade at Whig Lane, Salem county, New Jersey. Then he took up his residence at Woodstown, where he has since conducted a blacksmithing business and gained a reputation as one of the leading me-

chanics of the county and has become a leading citizen, influential and helpful in all measures intended for the public good. He was a member of the first board of councilmen of Woodstown after the organization of the place as a borough and has since been elected to the same office. He was a charter member, in 1871, of the Senior Order of United American Mechanics.

December 25, 1860, Mr. Cobb married Adeline, a daughter of James and Rebecca (Dawson) Strang, who has borne him children who were named George M., William S., Anna B., Addison L., Joseph B., Ralph A., Lottie G. and Bernard H. Mr. Strang, who was a carpenter, was born and lived in Gloucester county, where he died at the age of seventy years. Mrs. Strang, who was a native of Gloucester county, bore him four children: Adeline, Mrs. Cobb; Sarah Jane, who married William H. Cawman, William C.; and Robert M. After Mr. Strang's death she married Mahlon Costil and bore him two children, Abbie, wife of Levin Tull; and Mahlon.

As a public-spirited, progressive citizen Mr. Cobb is highly regarded by the leading men of Salem county. He wields considerable political influence, especially in the local work of his party, and is always active in the furtherance of such measures as he believes will, if successful, be conducive to the public good. All in all, he is one of those plain, unpretentious citizens who exert a healthful influence upon the community because their aims are pure and their efforts are earnest and persistent along every avenue to public progress.

THOMAS H. LONGACRE.

Thomas H. Longacre, a farmer of Woolwich township, Gloucester county, was born in Logan township, that county, on the 18th of April, 1860, and is a son of Peter and Martha (Holton) Longacre. The ancestry of the family can be traced to Andrew Longacre, the great-grandfather of our subject. His grandparents on the paternal side were Israel and Martha (Seers) Longacre, and the maternal grandparents were Thomas and Phoebe (Black) Holton, the latter a daughter of Benjamin Black. The parents of our subject, Peter and Martha (Holton) Longacre, have for many years been identified with the agricultural interests in Logan township. They have four children: Thomas H., of this review; Israel, who resides in Swedesboro; George, who is engaged in farming with his father; and Edward, who resides in Swedesboro.

Thomas H. Longacre was educated in the public schools of his native township, and when a young man he engaged in gardening for his uncle, Samuel Longacre, for two years. He then began farming on his own ac-