

CLARKSVILLE.

Her Situation and Population.

HER BUSINESS AND BUSINESS MEN.

Her Tobacco Trade, and her Warehouses and Stomies.

Her Large Grocery Business, and her Immense Dry Goods Trade.

HER MANUFACTORIES.

HER BANKS AND BANKERS—HER SPLENDID CHURCHES.

Her Public and Private Schools, and her Bold Prospects for the Future.

We purpose in this the Christmas number of the CHRONICLE, to say something about Clarksville and her business.

The City of Clarksville was founded about sixty years ago. The first brick house ever erected here may still be seen, just across the street west of the Southern Hotel. While her growth may not have been as rapid as that of some other cities, yet her increase has been steady, solid and substantial. There is nothing of the "mushroom" about her growth, and to-day Clarksville, as a collection of men, is one of the most solvent towns, if not the most solvent, in the whole country. Situated upon the left bank of the Cumberland, which is navigable nearly the year round, it is in the center of a wide belt of the finest lands in the United States, on which is produced every variety of cereal, besides the great staple of this country, tobacco; with railroad and river connection with business points north, south, east and west; surrounded by an industrious, energetic and intelligent people, whose school houses and churches crown every hill and dot every valley; a people who are able to buy and pay for not only the necessities but the luxuries of life; we say with such a business constituency Clarksville possesses advantages owned by but few towns, and her solid growth from a trifling village into an important city has not been accidental, but is the result of natural causes.

The population of Clarksville is now about 7,500, including the suburbs, which from their contiguity are naturally a part of the town. At present the city is growing more rapidly than was ever known before, and within five years, at the present rate of increase, the population of Clarksville will number ten thousand. There is not an unoccupied dwelling to be found, while a great number of dwelling houses are constantly being built, and as soon as one is finished there is a family ready to move in. The business of Clarksville has increased even more rapidly than her census. It may not be known to some that the largest tobacco market in the United States—save New York, Louisville and Cincinnati—is Clarksville. It is naturally, and we may say necessarily the case, in the very midst of the most extensive tobacco district in the country; with facilities for handling, selling and shipping tobacco unsurpassed; and with a board of buyers—twelve in number—at the staple table, representing and controlling millions of money, we say it is perfectly natural that the tobacco from this whole "district" should seek a market in whose financial stability the producer may confide, here in Clarksville. In vouching the business of the city, let us first glance at the

Warehouses, of which Clarksville has four, and which for extent and facilities for handling the weed are not equaled by any other warehouses in the West. The Grange Warehouse, situated on the corner of Front and Depot streets, is perhaps the most capacious establishment of the kind in the United States. This house is a joint-stock concern, under the control of twelve directors, all of whom are farmers, who are elected annually by the stockholders. It is under the immediate supervision of Mr. T. Herndon, Sup't, who is one of the finest business men to be met with here, or anywhere else. Under his management, this house sold last season 10,237 hogheads of tobacco, amounting to \$98,545 03; an average of \$6 45 per 100 lbs. for the entire sales, which embraced a very large per cent. of low types of tobacco from remote regions, not usually sold in this market. The Grange Warehouse has a storage capacity of 4,200 hogheads without crowding, or can handle with ease 15,000 hogheads during the season. We next come to the

Gracey House, on the corner of Commerce and Second streets, fronting on Second. The old Gracey House, which was burned in our big fire, has been replaced by a handsome and substantial brick structure at a cost of about \$25,000. It is splendidly adapted to the business, being large, well lighted and convenient. This house is occupied this season by Shelby, Hart & O'Brien, an able and experienced trio. The Gracey House has a storage capacity of 3,000 hogheads. It handled last season 3,994 hogheads, as shown by the books of the firm. We come next to the Central Warehouse,

on Front and Main streets, near the new Tobacco Exchange, and fronting the wharf. This house in point of structure and general management is not excelled by any house

in the West, having been built under the immediate supervision of the present owners and proprietors, Messrs. Kendrick & Pettus, who spared no expense to make it a strictly fire-proof warehouse. This house has the capacity of storing and handling during the season, with perfect ease, 5,000 hogheads of tobacco. The firm have also a shed in New Providence, under the management of Messrs. S. Buckley & Co., where the tobacco from the north side of the river is received, and whence it is drawn to the main warehouse free of charge. The sales of the Central, during the past season, were 4,270 hogheads. The

Elephant Warehouse is one of the oldest and most popular houses in the country. It is owned and occupied by Messrs. Turnley, Ely & Kennedy, men of large business capacity and men of capital. The Elephant Warehouse is conveniently located on the corner of Commerce and Front streets. This house has a storage capacity of 6,500 hogheads during a season. It can handle last season 5,940 hogheads. We thus get a total of 23,551 hogheads of tobacco sold by the warehouses alone. This does not include tobacco bought and prized as strips by the various

Stomies. Beaumont & Co. put up about 600,000 lbs.; R. R. Neal, 600,000 lbs.; Allan Gilmore, 400,000 lbs.; B. A. Spicer, 700,000 lbs.; P. H. Keesee & Co., 500,000 lbs.; Bryarley & Brown, 400,000 lbs.; T. D. Lockett, 1,000,000 lbs., making a total of 4,900,000 lbs. of strips put up at this market. Allowing 1,500 lbs. to the hoghead, this amounts to 2,966 hogheads making a grand total of 25,457 hogheads of tobacco handled in this market last season. The time was only a few years ago, when the project of establishing a tobacco market at Clarksville was laughed at as chimerical and absurd; and the idea of undertaking to get up a market to compete with New Orleans, was looked upon by many as simply preposterous. A few clear headed men thought differently and undertook the job. They bought tobacco in Clarksville, no so much for the sake of making money as for the sake of establishing a market. From a very small beginning the trade increased year by year, until the founders of this market have the satisfaction of seeing 25,457 hogheads bought here during one season, and the satisfaction of knowing that the best market for the producer in the civilized world is in Clarksville. Here buyers come from Liverpool, from Hamburg and from Bremen, and purchase their tobacco direct from the producer.

We are indebted to Messrs. M. H. Clark & Bro. for the following statement, showing the receipts, sales, stocks on hand, state of the market, and quotations, by months, for the tobacco year ending Nov. 1, 1878: 600 barrels per annum. This is one of the very best brands of Robertson county whiskey, and has a reputation second to none. They deal heavily in the old reliable Kanawha salt, and also in Ohio river salt, receiving both brands by the barge load. They are also agents for the celebrated "Anchor Brand Tobacco Fertilizer," which has given such universal satisfaction, and to the efficiency of which the firm are in possession of certificates from the very best farmers in the tobacco district, who tested it and proved its merits last season. In addition to this they do quite a large business in flour, which is one of their special features.

This firm is composed of J. W. Keesee and Mike Northington, two enterprising and energetic gentlemen. They do an extensive wholesale and retail grocery trade, and their house is amongst the most popular in the city. They deal extensively in country produce, such as bacon, pork, lard, etc., besides keeping their stock general grocery, continually replenished by the best to be found in the Eastern markets. Their business amounts to nearly \$100,000 annually. C. M. Barker. The "old reliable" house of Charles Barker is widely and favorably known over the country. Being a legitimate grocery business of nearly \$150,000 per annum, and being firmly grounded and established in the grocery trade of Clarksville, the establishment of C. M. Barker is justly regarded as one of the leading grocery houses of the city. One of his specialties is pork and bacon, of which he handles perhaps more than any other firm in the city. He buys large quantities of pork, which he cures and resells as bacon. His is also headquarters for country produce of all kinds. He has a fine share of Clarksville's wholesale and retail trade in the staple family groceries. Dority, Oldham & Co. This is a new firm in the wholesale and retail grocery line, and bids fair to take a place in the front rank of Clarksville's groceries. The firm consists of Wm. Dority, James Oldham and W. S. Poindexter, all of whom are business men of large experience and capacity. This house has been in the lists but about two months, and has already secured a splendid run of trade, which is steadily and rapidly increasing. Their stock is entirely new and fresh, and they received a few days since a large lot of New Orleans goods which they are disposing of at "prices to suit the times." They are wide awake gentlemen and will achieve success. Castner, Irwin & Co. The new firm of Castner, Irwin & Co. supply a long felt need in our city. Their house fully merits its description as a strictly choice family, fancy and staple grocery. Their store is a model of neatness; and their stock is the most varied and elegant of the best line of goods available in any city, being made from the choicest and freshest goods to be found. The firm is composed of comparatively young men, but men who are up in business. They are rapidly building up a fine trade, their stock embracing the necessities and luxuries of every housekeeper. They are thoroughly enterprising, and will

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Walter McComb & Co. This is a leading wholesale grocery firm of Clarksville, doing an annual business of \$250,000. It is composed of live business men; men who possess the confidence of the trade. Besides their large establishment on the corner of Franklin and First streets, the firm own a large salt shed and coal oil house near the depot, and also an extensive house on the Square. In addition to these they have recently purchased the house formerly occupied by C. M. Barker, which they design for storage purposes. All in all they possess one of the most capacious establishments to be found anywhere, and are well prepared to handle large bulks of goods. This firm sells the entire product of Dr. G. E. Dragbough's Robertson county distillery, amounting to from 550 to 600 barrels per annum. This is one of the very best brands of Robertson county whiskey, and has a reputation second to none. They deal heavily in the old reliable Kanawha salt, and also in Ohio river salt, receiving both brands by the barge load. They are also agents for the celebrated "Anchor Brand Tobacco Fertilizer," which has given such universal satisfaction, and to the efficiency of which the firm are in possession of certificates from the very best farmers in the tobacco district, who tested it and proved its merits last season. In addition to this they do quite a large business in flour, which is one of their special features.

Keesee & Northington. This firm is composed of J. W. Keesee and Mike Northington, two enterprising and energetic gentlemen. They do an extensive wholesale and retail grocery trade, and their house is amongst the most popular in the city. They deal extensively in country produce, such as bacon, pork, lard, etc., besides keeping their stock general grocery, continually replenished by the best to be found in the Eastern markets. Their business amounts to nearly \$100,000 annually. C. M. Barker. The "old reliable" house of Charles Barker is widely and favorably known over the country. Being a legitimate grocery business of nearly \$150,000 per annum, and being firmly grounded and established in the grocery trade of Clarksville, the establishment of C. M. Barker is justly regarded as one of the leading grocery houses of the city. One of his specialties is pork and bacon, of which he handles perhaps more than any other firm in the city. He buys large quantities of pork, which he cures and resells as bacon. His is also headquarters for country produce of all kinds. He has a fine share of Clarksville's wholesale and retail trade in the staple family groceries. Dority, Oldham & Co. This is a new firm in the wholesale and retail grocery line, and bids fair to take a place in the front rank of Clarksville's groceries. The firm consists of Wm. Dority, James Oldham and W. S. Poindexter, all of whom are business men of large experience and capacity. This house has been in the lists but about two months, and has already secured a splendid run of trade, which is steadily and rapidly increasing. Their stock is entirely new and fresh, and they received a few days since a large lot of New Orleans goods which they are disposing of at "prices to suit the times." They are wide awake gentlemen and will achieve success. Castner, Irwin & Co. The new firm of Castner, Irwin & Co. supply a long felt need in our city. Their house fully merits its description as a strictly choice family, fancy and staple grocery. Their store is a model of neatness; and their stock is the most varied and elegant of the best line of goods available in any city, being made from the choicest and freshest goods to be found. The firm is composed of comparatively young men, but men who are up in business. They are rapidly building up a fine trade, their stock embracing the necessities and luxuries of every housekeeper. They are thoroughly enterprising, and will

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