

Northern Kentucky
Views presents . . .

Samuel S. Scott, M.D.

SCOTT, SAMUEL S., M. D., Physician, Surgeon, and Politician, was born December 12, 1820, near the village of Poplar Grove, Owen County, Kentucky, and was taken by his parents to Gallatin (now Carroll) County, near Ghent. His father, Robert M. Scott, resided during most of his life in Carroll County, and followed the business of manufacturing flour and lumber; and was a man of fine natural ability and of wide influence. Carroll County continued to be his home, except for short intervals, until he was nearly twenty-five years of age. His grandfather Scott was a native of the north of Ireland, and emigrated from Belfast about 1790, settling at Lexington, where he taught school for some time. He served as a lieutenant in Wayne's campaign against the Indians in the North-west. His grandfather Garvey enlisted in the army, and served through the Revolutionary War, being present at the surrender of Yorktown. Dr. Scott was kept in the best schools of the country until his sixteenth year, when, through the friendship of George N. Sanders, he secured a cadetship at West Point; but about that time met with an accident, maiming one of his hands, rendering him ineligible. At the age of seventeen, he began to clerk in the store of his uncle, John C. Lindsay, at Ghent; and, while engaged in that capacity, frequently met Lewis Sanders and his son, George N. Sanders, and heard them discuss politics with the Whig leaders, and there laid the foundation of his attachment to the famous dogma of State Sovereignty. In 1844, he was with George N. Sanders on the committee of correspondence on the subject of Texas annexation, appointed at a meeting held at Ghent. That affair, in which he was one of the actors, became the turning-point in the lives of several distinguished politicians, and to some extent gave a new aspect to the political organizations of the country. In February, 1850, Col. Theodore O'Hara wrote him from Washington City, to know how many men could be recruited in Carroll County, to aid in an expedition to liberate Cuba, at the same time communicating to him the plans which had been arranged by Gen. Lopez, himself, and others concerned in the scheme. He at once espoused the Cuban cause, and, with the aid of Major William Handy (afterwards Dr. Handy), he raised two hundred and twenty-five men, with whom they embarked for New Orleans, on April 4 of that year. Those, with twenty-five others, made the Kentucky regiment in the first Lopez expedition. Theodore O'Hara was its colonel; John T. Pickett, its lieutenant-colonel; and T. T. Hawkins and William Handy were its majors. Dr. Scott was senior surgeon. The recruiting was conducted in great secrecy, none of the men knowing that they were not going to California. On the coast of Yucatan, they were joined by Lopez, with the rest of the expedition. They shortly after landed the whole force, in the

night, at Cardenas. At the first fire of the sentinel, O'Hara was wounded, and carried to the rear. But, after a short contest, the garrison and governor were surrendered to Lopez. But, being repulsed during several engagements of the day, they re-embarked, on the following night, on the "Creole," and, in a deplorable condition, landed at Key West. The expedition, although one of the most daring and exciting in the annals of modern warfare, had for its result the usual fate of such adventures. At the opening of the civil war, his principles led him to take the side of the South. In 1860, as the result of a correspondence with William L. Yancy, that noted Southern leader came to Kentucky, and delivered a speech at Florence. He used every exertion to induce Kentucky to go with the South, and, failing in his purpose, went to recruiting for the Confederate army, raising the greater part of Capt. A. S. Medari's company of Col. Roger Hanson's regiment. He served as a private in that company for several months, but was engaged most of the time in recruiting, up to the Fall of 1861. He finally reported to Dr. David Vandell, Medical Director at Bowling Green, and was appointed surgeon to one of the hospitals there; but was soon after made surgeon of Major Phifer's battalion of Arkansas cavalry. While acting in that capacity, he was elected, without his knowledge, as member of the famous "Council of Ten," the Legislative body of the "Provisional Government" of Kentucky, to fill the place of Gen. George B. Hodge. He remained with the "Council" until after the battle of Shiloh, still holding his position in the medical service. He was subsequently ordered to Eastern Kentucky, and became surgeon of the Fourth Kentucky Cavalry, under Humphrey Marshall, with which he remained, in the capacity of surgeon, brigade surgeon, surgeon of division, and, for a time, medical director of the department of South-west Virginia and East Tennessee, until Col. Giltner marched to Mt. Sterling to surrender, in 1865. He then, with a small party, joined Gen. Breckinridge, in North Carolina, and was among the last to surrender. He then returned to Kentucky, and resumed the practice of his profession. He studied medicine, and graduated in the medical department of Transylvania University in 1842, and began the practice of his profession at Ghent, in the following year. In 1853, he also attended lectures at the Medical College of Ohio, and graduated. He has mainly engaged in the active duties of his practice, his long army experience making him one of the best surgeons in his State, and his long general medical practice has placed him among its most reliable and thorough physicians. He has, for many years, resided in Boone County, at Florence; and, although still giving his attention to his profession, devotes much of his time to the care of his farm, and has always been more or less

interested in stock-raising. In politics, he is one of the straight-out, old school Jeffersonian Democrats, and, in 1877, was one of the Electors on the Tilden ticket, receiving nearly two hundred more votes than any district candidate for Elector in the State. In 1877, he was a candidate for one branch of the Legislature, but gracefully retired from the field to make way for another. He is a man of great strength of character; never abandons a cause he once espouses; is naturally a leader, and is one of those men who would always come to the surface in great public emergencies. In person, he is over six feet in height; powerfully built; is scholarly in his habits, careless and off-hand in manners and dress, and is a fine specimen of his type of independent manhood. Dr. Scott was married, at New Liberty, Kentucky, November 11, 1845, to Evelyn F. O'Hara, eldest daughter of James O'Hara, Sr., and sister of Judge James O'Hara, of Covington, Kentucky. They have had three sons and one daughter. Their oldest son, Charles, served in the Confederate army, and died in 1872. Their other living son, Robert Scott, is a druggist at Williamstown, Kentucky.