

## HON. GEORGE E. GRIER.

Hon. George E. Grier, the present efficient bank examiner of the state of Iowa, has throughout his business career been identified with banking and educational interests and his experience in the former connection led to his appointment to the position he now holds. Mr. Grier has always resided in and near Deep River, for his birth occurred on a farm in Lincoln township, two and a half miles north of the town, on the 18th of March, 1876.

His paternal grandparents, Thomas and Charlotte Grier, were natives of Pennsylvania, whence they removed to Ohio and later came to Poweshiek county in an early day but only lived about three years after taking up their abode in this district. They had a family of eleven children children, eight sons and three daughters, including Benton Grier, who became the father of him whose name introduces this review.

The father was born in Coshocton county, Ohio, July 14, 1842, and was there reared and educated. He was a young man of twenty-two years when, in 1864, he accompanied his parents on their removal to Poweshiek county, the family home being established on a farm in Lincoln township, where he engaged in farming throughout the remainder of his life. He became a successful man, owning three hundred and twenty acres of rich farming land. He became very prominent in public affairs and on the democratic ticket was called to fill many positions of trust and responsibility, serving continuously as township assessor, township trustee, school director and in various other positions. He was an active worker in the United Presbyterian church, rearing his eight children in that faith, and family worship was daily observed in his household, his life being lived in harmony with his professions.

Benton Grier was married to Miss Mary J. Sanders, who was born in Jefferson county, Ohio, August 5, 1840. She was there reared and in the fall of 1864 came to Poweshiek county with her parents, George E. and Maria Sanders, the family home being established on a farm in Lincoln township. She was married on that farm and her remaining years were spent within a mile of where her father had located. She died August 28, 1905, but Mr. Grier had preceded her to the grave many years before, his death occurring February 13, 1891, when he was forty-nine years of age, while at the time of her demise she was sixty-five years of age. Their family numbered eight children, Charles, the eldest, who was born May 19, 1868, was killed in an automobile accident, December 28, 1910, leaving a widow and four children. He was a farmer residing on the old Grier homestead where his grandfather had first located. He was prominent in Masonic circles, having served as master of his lodge for three years. Ross, the next member of the family, is now serving as post-

master of Deep River. Park also makes his home in that village. Martha Maria is the wife of W. E. Atherton, a resident of Lincoln township. George E. is the next in order of birth. Mark operates the old homestead in Lincoln township. Morris also lives in that township. Benjamin W. is acting as cashier of the Savings Bank at Hartwick.

George E. Grier, the fourth son and fifth child in his father's family, was reared in much the usual manner of farm lads, assisting his father in the work of the farm through the spring and summer seasons, while during the winter months he pursued his studies in the district schools. He later spent two years in the high school at Deep River, graduating in May, 1895, after which he spent five years in study in Iowa College at Grinnell, graduating from that institution in June, 1900. For two years thereafter he was principal of the high school at Deep River, but in June, 1902, he entered the employ of the State Bank at Deep River. A year later, in June, 1903, having proved his capability and trustworthiness, he was made cashier of the bank, which position he held until February, 1911, when he was appointed by the state auditor to the position of bank examiner of the state of Iowa. He is now devoting his entire time to this work, his service ever being characterized by integrity, accuracy, promptness and courteous treatment of his patrons. He is likewise financially interested in the brick and tile company at Deep River, this being one of the largest industrial concerns in this section of the state.

Mr. Grier is a republican in his political views and affiliations and in 1896 was elected on that ticket as representative to the legislature from Poweshiek county. He was reelected in 1898, serving in the thirty-second and thirty-third general assemblies during his two terms. He is a prominent and popular member of the Presbyterian church at Deep River and also belongs to Golden Rod Lodge of Masons, No. 512.

It was in 1904 that Mr. Grier wedded Miss Margaret Alma Cox, who was born November 10, 1874, a daughter of George Cox, a well-to-do resident of Deep River, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this work. Four children, two little sons and two daughters, have come to bless the home of Mr. and Mrs. Grier, these being Hamlin Cox, Mary Catharine, Elizabeth and George Edward. The family occupy a beautiful and modern home, the finest in Deep River, which Mr. Grier erected in the year 1908. Both he and his wife are popular in the social circles of their locality, and their attractive and hospitable home is a favorite resort for their many friends.