

are communicants of the Catholic church and the democratic party receives the support of Mr. Panos at the polls. He has never been an active political worker nor office seeker, however, for he feels that his business affairs need his entire time and attention. He is a young man, having not yet passed his third decade, but already he has made a creditable place among the progressive farmers of Chickasaw county.

R. P. KEEFE.

Farming interests of Howard county are well represented by R. P. Keefe, who makes his home on section 33, Afton township, where he is busily engaged in the cultivation of a farm of one hundred and twenty acres. Iowa numbers him among her native sons, his birth having occurred at Stacyville, Mitchell county, May 27, 1872. His parents were John M. and Anna(O'Neil) Keefe, the former a native of County Meath, Ireland, while the latter was born in Elgin, Illinois. Coming to the new world in early life, John M. Keefe responded to the call of his adopted country for service in the Civil war and went to the front in defense of the Union, participating in a number of hotly contested engagements. Recently a most interesting letter has come to light which was written by Mr. Keefe during his Civil war experience and is as follows:

"Fackler Station, near Stevenson, Ala.,
"Feh. 1st, 1864.

"Mr. Thos. Milnamore,

"Dear Sir: It is with great pleasure that I now take the liberty on myself of addressing you with a few lines which gives me the satisfaction to announce to you of the present condition of my health since I returned to the sunny south. I never felt better in my life than I do at the present, thank God. I hope these few lines will find you and family enjoying the same blessing.

"I have seen in the columns of the northern newspapers that you had a hard winter during December and also of many people getting frozen with the cold. About the time I got down to this place we had a cold snap lasting for many days which made camp life a little disagreeable for a while, but the Almighty God seemed to take an interest in our cause and so delivered us from the cold by restoring to us fine, pleasant weather which now exists here. We cannot bear to wear a coat on us during the day because it is so warm. The nights are also close and warm, so you see that I had luck to return here before the cold weather set in. I will now make you a few remarks on the present condition of our army in this part of the south. The very best feeling is entertained amongst us that we are now capable of defeating our enemy at all points and in the wind-up of ending the rebellion. This spring the enemy is getting very much disheartened and discouraged of accomplishing their ideas. They are deserting in large numbers every day into our lines and giving themselves up for protection under the old flag. They also confirm the news that is now in circulation concerning Johnson's army. It takes one-half of his men to guard the others from deserting over to us. There is a rumor in camp today that we are going to make a move on closer to the enemy, but I cannot say it for a fact; but I know myself that there are two corps of the army now en route to the front. There is one thing sure—we will have an early campaign of it this spring, as it looks very much like it now. The roads are in good order at present to renew the combat.

"This, our regiment, is in the best of health. There are not five men on the sick list in our whole command. I can miss many faces from our regiment in our military family that were very familiar to me. Before I got enlightened, when I inquired about some old acquaintance, they will tell me that he is dead—lie fell on the memorable charge, which showed what Irishmen can do as they have done at Missionary Ridge and many other gory fields.

"I will close. I have no news of importance to mention this time. I wish you to sit down some of those long nights and write me.

"I am your humble servant,

"JOHN KEEFE.