


## Hon. John B. Clarke

  
**C**LARKE, HON. JOHN B., Lawyer, son of John and Mary (Blades) Clarke, was born April 14, 1833, in Bracken County, Kentucky. He was raised on the farm, completed his education at Augusta College, and began the study of the law, in 1852, under Judge Joseph Doniphan, at Augusta. In the Spring of 1854, he was admitted to the bar, and, in the following year, commenced practice, still remaining in the office of Judge Doniphan. But, during this year, he removed to Brookville, in the same county, where he has since resided. He has represented nearly every criminal case in his county for fifteen years; and, besides being one of the most successful criminal case lawyers in the State, his general law practice has become large and lucrative. In 1858, he was elected county attorney, and held the position four years. In 1867, he was elected to the State Senate from his district, consisting of the counties of Bracken, Pendleton, and Grant, and held the position four years. In 1874, he was elected to Congress, from the Tenth Congressional District, time expiring March 4, 1874. In this Congressional term, he served on the Committees of Revolutionary War Claims and of Patents; and he so faithfully and honorably represented his constituency, and maintained the dignity of his position throughout the heated partisan contests of the House, that, in November, 1876, he was re-elected to the same place, representing, as before, the Tenth Congressional District. He was Chairman of the Democratic County Executive Committee, from 1862 to 1874; and was, for eight years, Chairman of the District Executive Democratic Committee. He was born a Democrat; during the war, supported the South by his earnest sympathy, but took no active part in the contest, yet was not without participation in the troubles of the times; and, since the war, has been one of the most active and successful Democratic leaders in his part of the State. He is greatly devoted to his profession, and is, in fact, an enthusiast in any cause he espouses. He is a man of fine literary attainments, and a ready and able speaker. He is an active member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and, in the ministry, would doubtlessly have been a man of uncommon powers. He is barely in the prime of life, with a combination of splendid personal traits which would distinguish him anywhere among men. Mr. Clarke was married, October 3, 1854, to Miss Cordelia A. Robertson, daughter of Christopher Robertson, of Bracken County, and niece of the late Dr. J. Taylor Bradford. They have five living children.