

HENRY MURRELL ATKINSON. One of the most successful of Atlanta's younger financiers is Mr. Henry Murrell Atkinson. Mr. Atkinson is a native of New England, and was born in Brookline, Mass., Nov. 13, 1862. His father, George Atkinson, was a man of distinguished talent, and belonged to one of the oldest and best families of New England. Theodore Atkinson, his progenitor, seven generations removed, was a native of Bury, Lancastershire, England. He came to this country in 1634, among the earlier pioneers of the New England coast, settling in Boston, Mass. Mr. Atkinson's great-grandfather, Amos Atkinson, was a minute man in the historic battles of Concord and Lexington, taking a gallant part in the opening struggle of the American revolution. He afterward served in the patriot army as an officer in the Seventeenth Massachusetts regiment, one of the first raised. The maiden name of Mr. Atkinson's mother was Elizabeth Staigg. She was born in Yorkshire, England, and belonged to one of the best families of that cultured section. Her brother was a celebrated portrait painter and many fine portraits were painted by him. In addition to these works of art he executed quite a large number of [www.georgiapioneers.com](http://www.georgiapioneers.com). The union between George Atkinson, the father of the subject of this sketch, and Elizabeth Staigg occurred at Newport, R. I. Mr. Atkinson received his primary education from the private schools of Boston. These have always ranked among the best in the United States. After leaving the Boston schools Mr. Atkinson became a student of Harvard university, leaving that institution in 1882. For three years he was engaged in the cattle business in the west, after which he came to Atlanta, believing that here he could find a better opening than at any other point in the south. He had not been a resident of Atlanta long before he acquired the spirit of enthusiastic devotion to his adopted city. For three years after coming to Atlanta he was connected with Messrs. S. M. Inman & Co. in the cotton business. In 1889 Mr. Atkinson organized and established the Southern Banking and Trust company, with a capital stock of \$300,000, of which he became the vice-president. At this time he was only twenty-seven years of age. Subsequently, in 1890, he assumed the duties of president, and managed the entire business of the bank. Under his superior financial management this institution became one of the strongest and most prosperous banking enterprises in the city. Recently this bank consolidated its deposit business with the Atlanta Trust and Banking company, and the combination has produced one of the strongest monetary institutions in the south, the Southern Banking and Trust company continuing as a trust company with \$300,000 capital. Two years after organizing the bank of which he became president, Mr. Atkinson, in 1891, organized the Georgia Electric Light company, of which he was made the president. In this way Mr. Atkinson has rendered valuable service to Atlanta by placing her in the front rank of those

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cities using electricity for illuminating purposes, as well as for transportation and manufacturing motive power. As a progressive and enterprising business man, promoting the material growth and welfare of the city, Mr. Atkinson has been a valuable addition to Atlanta's citizenship. It is entirely safe to say that no young man has ever come to Atlanta, like Mr. Atkinson, a comparative stranger, and, within the brief space of only ten years, produced such an indelible impress upon the community. He has not only demonstrated the brilliant enterprise of a promoter, but the sober judgment of a wise manager and safe counsellor. Mr. Atkinson, by reason of his influential business connections in New England, has been the means of bringing large sums of money to Atlanta. His influence has been constantly [www.georgiapioneers.com](http://www.georgiapioneers.com) to bring northern and eastern enterprises to this city, and he has succeeded in this endeavor to such an extent as to make Atlanta deeply indebted to him. Though Mr. Atkinson has never sought political preferment or self-aggrandizement of any kind, he has always been a careful student of politics, especially in their bearing upon the business and financial situation. He is a close and watchful observer, and nothing escapes his attention. In view of the success already achieved in Atlanta by this brilliant young scion of New England it is safe to predict that his future will be one of splendid revelation. Mr. Atkinson is a member of the leading clubs of the city, notably of the Capital City and the Commercial, and is also a member of the Reform and the Harvard clubs of New York city. Mr. Atkinson was married in April, 1888, to Miss May Peters, a daughter of Mr. Richard Peters, who was a member of the engineering corps that located and superintended the construction of the Georgia railway. He was a pioneer resident of this city: the originator and builder of the first street railway, and among the foremost in every enterprise calculated to advance Atlanta's prosperity. Mr. and Mrs. Atkinson have two children. Mr. Atkinson, as agent for eastern money lenders, represents \$2,500,000 capital invested in the south. In addition to his management of the Southern Banking and Trust company, he is president of the Georgia Electric Light company, vice-president of the Atlanta Trust and Banking company, president of the Tripod Paint company, and director in several other associations.