

MR. L. H. BECK. One of Atlanta's most successful and enterprising business men is Mr. L. H. Beck, the president of the Beck & Gregg Hardware company. Mr. Beck is a native of this state, and was born at Griffin, Ga., in Spalding county, on Aug. 5, 1848. He resided in Spalding county until he reached his eighth year, and then moved to Newton county, locating about four miles from Covington. Here he received his rudimentary education, dividing his time between the school-room and the plantation. At the age of sixteen the subject of this sketch became a member of the state troops, and served under the command of Col. Joel A. Billups. After the war he came to Atlanta, without friends or prospects, to begin the struggle of life. This was in 1866. The city presented a cheerless picture of desolation, on account of the destructive march of Gen. Sherman; but trade was beginning to revive, and the outlook for the future was one of encouragement. He secured a clerkship in the hardware establishment of Tommey & Stewart, and having gained a start, he experienced no difficulty in holding his own. By reason of his push and energy he was several times promoted, and finally, in 1870, succeeded to a partnership in the business, the firm becoming that of Tommey, Stewart & P. Stewart retired in 1878, and Mr. W. A. Gregg became a partner, changing the name of the firm to Tommey, Gregg & Beck. Mr. Tommey withdrew in 1880, and the firm of Beck, Gregg & Co., W. M. Crumley

making the Co., continued the business. Three years later the enterprising firm applied for a charter, which was promptly granted. The establishment was incorporated under the name of Beck & Gregg Hardware company, the first mercantile company ever incorporated in the south. The trade of this house extends all over the country, and every year a banquet is held at which all the clerks and salesmen meet together in social intercourse with the owners of the business. Mr. Beck is the president of the Atlanta Machine works, having successfully organized that enterprise several years ago, and is also connected with several other important operations. Mr. Beck is socially a most delightful gentleman, and belongs to the Capital City and Piedmont driving clubs. He was united in marriage, on Jan. 1, 1874, to Miss Sallie E. Speer, sister of the late Maj. D. N. Speer, for many years the treasurer of the state of Georgia, and his home life is one of ideal felicity. Mr. Beck has always taken a deep interest in public affairs, but has never sought political honors, being satisfied with the quiet life of an unobtrusive citizen. He is a member of the First Methodist church, and takes a deep interest in all that concerns the welfare of his denomination. From every point of view his life has been a successful one, and no citizen of Atlanta is more deserving of popular esteem.