

*Caroline County*—ROBERT M. MESSICK.

Robert Martin Messick was born in Sussex county, Del., February 14, 1842. His parents died when he was 12 years old. After the death of his parents Robert left Delaware and went to Caroline county, Md., where he had an uncle at that time residing near Denton, who hired him to a prosperous farmer near Andersontown, at which place he rendered faithful service for two years. He then entered the employ of B. G. Stevens, of Williston. He was appointed postmaster at Williston under Lincoln's administration, and in 1863 he married the daughter of Col. A. J. Willis, of Caroline. He remained with Mr. Stevens until 1865; he then went to Baltimore, where he engaged in the hardware business. In 1869 he removed to his farm near Bethlehem, where he now resides. In 1873 he entered into the saw mill business and carried it on, together with farming, until 1882, when he constructed the present canning establishment near Bethlehem. In the fall of 1881 Mr. Messick was nominated on the Republican ticket for County Commissioner, and was elected over his competitor, James A. Parrott, by 272 majority, while the average majority of the rest of the ticket was only 185. In 1883 he ran on the Republican ticket for the House of Delegates, and was defeated by the Democratic candidate, Col. Jas. H. Douglass, by the small majority of 38 votes. In 1891 he engaged in the mercantile business at Bethlehem, which he still carries on in connection with the canning business.

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*Cecil County*.—AUSTIN L. CROTHERS.

Austin L. Crothers was born near the village of Conowingo, Cecil county, May 17, 1860. He received his primary education in the public schools and at West Nottingham Academy. His first work was as a schoolmaster in the public schools in Cecil county, and while filling that position his spare moments were devoted to reading law. After a few years he resigned and entered the law department of the University of Maryland. Graduating from that institution, he was admitted to the Elkton bar in 1890. Soon after entering upon active practice he was elected to the office of prosecuting attorney. As a lawyer he takes front rank at the Elkton bar. He is a man of scholarly attainments.