

## ANSON COLLINS.

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**A**NSON COLLINS was associated with his brothers in business in St. Louis and Collinsville until 1829. He then, with Michael and Frederick, moved to Naples, on the Illinois river. He had read law, but preferred active business. A tradition in the family says he became much interested in a Miss Clinch, of New York, who was visiting relatives in Naples, and that his interest was reciprocated. Miss Clinch was a sister of Mrs. Alexander Stewart, for so long a millionaire merchant in New York. For some reason Anson remained unmarried. He died May 15, 1835. He was greatly interested in the cause of education, and endowed a professorship of Greek in Illinois College. The lands he bequeathed to the college were estimated as worth from \$15,000 to \$20,000. He was laid to rest in old Indian Mound, at Naples, Illinois.

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## MICHAEL COLLINS.

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He was the first of the Collins family to move to Illinois. He married Caroline Blakeman, May 16, 1827. She was the daughter of Captain Blakeman, one of a number of sea captains who had retired from the sea and established a settlement in Madison County, appropriately naming it "Marine." Michael was associated with his brothers in business in Collinsville and St. Louis, and afterwards with Anson and Frederick at Naples. He was a man of vigorous common sense. He was very fond of mathematics and could follow mentally, problems of an intricate character. He took great pleasure in propounding problems to those who were supposed to have had special educational advantages, and enjoyed all counter challenges. Was very plain and practical in all the relations of life. Physically, he was a man of great strength and endurance. When engaged in the business of distilling whisky and making flour, he loaded full barrels into a wagon, lifting them up by the chimes, discarding the use of a plank or skid. He was an ingenious mechanic and skillful in working wood or iron. He invented many contrivances to economize labor upon his farm. He was very blunt and direct in speech and took no little pride in his republican simplicity. There is a tradition in the family that Lieutenants Phillip St. George Cooke and Jefferson Davis, afterwards president of the Southern Confederacy, passed through Collinsville on their way to report for duty at Jefferson barracks, and inquiring of a large man, dusty with flour, standing in the door of the mill, the way to St. Louis, were answered with the monosyllable, "West." If it is a myth, the invention fits his "way." He was connected with the Presbyterian Church. He owned a large and fertile farm near Liberty, Illinois. He died December 12, 1862.