

His appointment received unanimous endorsement of the members of the Legislature, that body passing a special Act relieving him of all the disabilities of the Independence of Parliament Act, allowing him to retain his seat in the Legislature while holding an office of emolument under the Crown. This is the first act passed that has ever relieved a member from taking such a position under the Government. In secret societies, Mr. Awrey does not figure extensively, but is connected with the Masonic order and the Royal Arcanum. In religion he is an adherent of the Methodist church. In 1872 he married Hazeltine Barlow, youngest daughter of Richard Barlow, of Binbrook, and has a family of four children, three sons and one daughter. In private as well as in public life Mr. Awrey is deservedly held in the highest respect and esteem.

DR. H. T. RIDLEY,  
*Hamilton, Ont.*

DR. HENRY THOMAS RIDLEY, a leading member of the medical profession in Hamilton, was born at Belleville, Ontario, August 21st, 1827. His parents were Dr. Geo. Neville Ridley and his wife, Ann Sophia, *née* Sayer. As the former was one of the pioneer physicians in Ontario, a brief reference to his career will not be out of place in this article. He was born at Kimbolton, Huntingdonshire, England, February 22nd, 1794, and belonged to a family the men of which, for generations past, have been either doctors or clergymen. He studied at St. Thomas' and Guy's Hospitals, and was a pupil of Sir Astley Cooper. He was always fond of surgery, although he possessed in a remarkable degree the faculty of diagnosing disease, and his opinion was seldom at fault. About the year 1818, just before finishing his studies, he visited Canada, landing at Quebec. From Montreal he travelled on foot to Kingston, Cobourg, and Toronto, thence he proceeded to Niagara Falls. He was much pleased with the Niagara district, and especially with the regions around Grimsby, where he spent some time among the old families of Pettits and Nelleses. During his journey through the country at that time he made life-long friendships with the Le Messuriers, Moffats, Robinsons, Boultons and a host of other prominent men of those days. Returning to England he completed his medical studies, and after practising for some time at St. Alban's, he again came to Canada. In 1824, with the intention of farming on an extensive scale, he purchased land near Belleville; but he was soon forced to practise his profession as he could not refuse to visit those requiring medical aid. His work ex-

tended from Kingston all the way to Cobourg, few serious cases happening without his advice being sought. He used to relate that often in the earlier years of his experience he would put his saddle under the seat of his waggon or, as he called it, his "grasshopper," and after going as far as he could in the vehicle, would leave it beside a fence; then mounting his horse he would proceed to the edge of a dense forest, tie the animal to a tree, and finally walk two or three miles along a "blazed" track to the shanty that was his destination. His fee would probably be paid to him some years after in the shape of a load of potatoes or a few bushels of oats. He never lost his love for surgical anatomy, and the present Dr. Ridley tells how, while he was a student, he frequently accompanied him on his visits to his country patients and on such occasions was put through a pretty hard anatomical grind. In politics, he was an old-fashioned "Church-and-State Tory," but the most liberal-minded man and tolerant of men to those who differed from him. Any thing like bitterness towards an opponent was foreign to his nature; honour with him was part of his life. During the rebellion of 1837 he was actively employed as surgeon and examining officer for the recruits. He was also one of the acting magistrates of the district in which he lived, and many a man arrested on suspicion of treason was released through his advice and influence. He would often say to the other magistrates: "I know this man, he is no doubt a Radical, but he is as good and loyal a citizen as any of us, and I cannot see him punished for his opinions." Hard professional, unceasing work undermined a splendid constitution, and before he reached his forty-eighth year he had a severe attack of diabetes, which in three months reduced him to a mere shadow of his former self. From this he never fully recovered, and although he lived to the age of sixty-three the remainder of his life was a period of continued suffering. He was never known, however, to utter complaint, and when on his death-bed and all around were filled with grief he spoke with such unbounded faith of the future as to leave every one persuaded that for him "to die was gain." He died August 28th, 1857, leaving behind him a widow, six sons and two daughters. The career of his son whose name heads this article has been, like his own, an honourable one. After having spent some years at the public and grammar schools in his native town, Henry was sent to Upper Canada College, which he attended for several terms. Having chosen medicine as his profession, he attended the sessions of McGill College, Montreal, from 1849 to 1852 inclusive, graduating in the last named year. Immediately after receiving his degrees he located in Hamil-