

Wiser was for eight years a member of the Assembly of New York, and has been elected a Justice of the Peace annually for fifty years, still holding that office. His wife, who is also living, and whose maiden name was Mary Rich, was the first female child born in the town of De Kalb, St. Lawrence county. Of the five living children of Mr. and Mrs. Wiser, Harlow G. the eldest son, was educated at Terrebonne (in French), Quebec, Hellmuth College, London, Ontario, and Mount Pleasant Military Academy, Sing Sing, New York. He is an officer of the Canadian Garrison Artillery, and cashier for his father. Eugene Frank, the second child is a student at the Mount Pleasant Military Academy, and the three youngest, Isaac Philip, Mary Kate and Maud Alice, are pursuing primary and preparatory studies at home.

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## ROBERT BELL,

CARLETON PLACE.

ONE of the oldest families in the County of Lanark, Ontario, is that of the Bells, the first settler here of that name of any prominence being the Rev. William Bell, a native of Leith, near Edinburgh, Scotland, his father, Andrew Bell, owning at one time most of the present site of the city of Airdrie. William Bell prepared himself for a missionary and was about to start for the Isle of Ceylon, when, at the suggestion of Lord Bathurst, then Colonial Secretary, Mr. Bell changed his mind, and came to Canada, in 1817, settled at Perth, and was forty years pastor of the first Presbyterian church. He came out in a semi-official capacity, as chaplain to the disbanded soldiers, who had settled in and near Perth. He died about twenty-two years ago, much lamented by a very wide circle of warm friends. His son, the subject of this sketch has the copy of his Bible which the old gentleman used in his pulpit for forty years. He was the author of "Hints to Emigrants," a volume published in Edinburgh, in 1824, and which was of great use to hundreds of emigrants who came to this Province about that period.

William Bell married Mary Black, a descendant of the Huguenots. She was the mother of nine children, eight sons and one daughter, all born in the old country, but the two youngest. She died a few years after her husband. Both are buried at Perth.

Robert Bell, fourth son and fourth child, was born in London, England, March 16, 1808. He received a limited education, such as the school at Perth could furnish fifty and sixty years ago; learned the mercantile trade at Perth, with two older brothers, William and John Bell and about 1830 settled in Carleton Place, and had a mercantile establishment here thirty years being successful in business.

In 1866 Mr. Bell was appointed inspector of canals, and held that office till a few weeks ago, having the whole Dominion for his field. He was postmaster of Carleton Place for twenty years; was in the old district council, and subsequently in the county council, and was warden for two or