

"friend and companion—his death a public loss. He was a practical farmer from his youth, a close and accurate observer, a good judge of farm stock and familiar with all the best breeds in the country. From his personal knowledge of agricultural affairs I derived much useful information; he has left a name that will not soon be forgotten, kind-hearted and generous, mild and quiet in manners, unassuming in character; he was not selfish, but interested himself in the labours of others and in the prosperity of this society; let us ever cherish a grateful memory of his many private virtues that endeared him to us and made him universally respected." Such was the estimate placed by one of the most highly respected citizens of Hamilton on the character of the man whom Mr. Lottridge was called upon to succeed. But the latter, though a young man, was equal to the responsibility cast upon him, and under his skilful direction the business has grown steadily until now it is one of the most extensive outside of Toronto in the whole Province. For a time Mr. Lottridge had the late Robert Grant associated with him as a partner, and on the death of the latter, in June, 1877, he assumed the entire control, which he retained until 1882, when he admitted as partners John H. Cummer, W. L. Cummer (his nephews), J. D. Evans and T. W. Grant, son of the late P. Grant—all of whom are still connected with the business. For a number of years the old Grant farm, of 165 acres, one of the finest in the Hamilton region, was carried on in connection with the brewery. This, however, Mr. Lottridge sold in 1882 at \$219 an acre, the city having previously refused to purchase it for park purposes at \$175 per acre. For years he took an active part in the affairs of the great Central Fair Association, in which he for a time filled the office of President. For many years, also, he was President of the Ontario Brewers' Association. In politics, Mr. Lottridge was for many years a strong Conservative, but of late years he has supported the Reform administration, giving his loyal adherence specially to that at Toronto. In religion, he is an Episcopalian, and has for years taken an active part in connection with the affairs of Christ church, being chairman of the Cathedral building committee at the time that structure was under erection. In 1869, Mr. Lottridge married Susan, eldest daughter of the late Peter Grant, by whom he had four children, of whom a son and daughter are living. The latter is among the highly accomplished young ladies of Hamilton, and the former is pursuing his studies at Trinity College school, Port Hope. In business, Mr. J. M. Lottridge has an established reputation for honourable dealing and strict integrity. Personally he is affable, kind-

hearted and generous, and though in his public career he may have made enemies, he is nevertheless held in high regard by many admiring friends.

W. R. MEREDITH, Q. C., M. P. P.,

Toronto, Ont.

ONE of the chief present-day figures in legal and political circles in the province of Ontario, is William Ralph Meredith, Q. C., LL.D., M. P. P., and leader of the Opposition in the Local Legislature. He was born in Westminster township, Middlesex county, March 31st, 1840, his parents being John Cooke Meredith and his wife, Sarah, whose maiden name was Pegler. Mr. Meredith, sr., was a native of Dublin, Ireland, where he received his education, graduating in arts at Trinity College. Thence he proceeded to London, and entered upon the study of the law, but this after a time he abandoned, and came to seek his fortune in Canada. Like many others who emigrated from the old land in those days, he sought a home in the western part of the province, finally settling in Westminster, where he secured a grant of land and took to farming. It was shortly after this that he met and married Miss Pegler, and the result of their union was a family of twelve children, eight sons and four daughters, all of whom are still living, the subject of our sketch being the eldest of the sons. Receiving his primary education in the institutions of his native township, the youth, who has since won such high distinction in the province, was sent to the London Grammar School, where he remained for some years under the tuition of that famous educationist, the late Rev. Benjamin Bayley. After leaving school, he commenced the study of law in the office of the late Thomas Scatcherd, of London, a gentleman well known not only as a leading member of his profession, but as a prominent politician, he having sat in the old parliament of Canada for a number of years prior to confederation, as well as at a later date in the Dominion House of Commons. From the outset young Meredith was an enthusiastic and hard-working student, and ere long those who watched his career saw that he had a brilliant future before him. In 1859 he entered Toronto University, where he distinguished himself by carrying off a scholarship in law at his matriculation examination. During the remainder of his university course he made rapid progress, and in 1861 was called to the bar. Returning to London, he once more entered the office of Mr. Scatcherd; this time, however, as a partner, and the connection thus formed was maintained until the death of the latter gentleman, in 1876. Long before this, however, Mr. Meredith had climbed to a leading position in