

From 1870 dates the history of the modern town whose rise and progress the past few years has been so rapid. It owes this generally to the greatly improved surrounding of fine cultivated farms, to the lumber and cordwood interests, now very extensive industries, but directly to the energy of her merchants and manufacturers—particularly to McVean's factories, to Rudd's and other carriage shops and other employers of labor, more especially to Smith's woolen works, and above all to Mayor Trerice, whose numerous interests—mills, foundry, boats, lumber, &c., are a credit and an acquisition to any place. Recovering from a financial blow which left many old settlers and business men *hors de combat*, it has immediately before and since brought out most of her present leading merchants: Smith Bros., R. P. Wright, Kimmerly & Aiken, Carscallen Bros., McVean family, S. J. Ball, and many others equally prominent. In the period also arose, after repeated fires, the fine brick blocks of Watson and others on Main Street, and of Trerice, Stephens and others on George street, as also the new school house (1873), M. E. Church on George street, and numerous public buildings and private residences throughout the town. Indeed, in retrospect, and dating its inception as a village from 1854, the year of the establishment of the first post office, and the official naming of its foreign cognomen it had little history—if we except the Institution—beyond that of a mere uninteresting cross road hamlet until well into the decade ending with 1870. Till then it was a delapidated hole famed for free fights—white and black—in which boys and young men were not the only participants. It was probably the meanest in appearance of what are now the incorporated villages and towns of Kent. But suddenly jumping from its obscurity it has outstripped them all, not only in population, but perhaps in appearance and solid progress and wealth. With a population barely 500 in 1870, it has now fully 2000. Incorporated a village in 1872 (a town in 1882) its ratepayers numbered then 235, and the assessment amounted to \$100,935; now in 1882 they are respectively 579 and \$379,815. In 1870 there was barely a North Dresden, but one brick house in the whole corporation limits—if Mr. Carter's brick, the first, was even then built—much less a store, for Windover's arose only in 1873, and was burned the same year. Now there are blocks of the latter, and numbers of the former—many of considerable pretensions, particularly the residence of the Mayor, which is worthy of a larger place. In 1875 it became headquarters of No. 3 Division Court under Clerk Mr. Wallace. In 1873 the new brick school house was erected at a cost of \$3,500, and in 1874 at a cost of \$8,300 the substantial Town Hall in whose tower, denoting the hours of labor and sometimes of departing sinners, rings a bell, presented by the founder of the village, D. R. VanAllen. And to administer to the intellectual man and to record the events of the place by Alex. Riggs, on 2nd February, 1871, was first published a Dresden newspaper—the Dresden Gazette—a newspaper now merged into the Dresden Times, which, under the able management of its manager and editor, Mr. William Colville, is for well written and racy editorials, and excellent typographical execution, second to none in the county. And to guide her citizens in the way beyond all flesh, was erected in 1877 the fine brick spire M. E. Church. And to give pleasure on her own, and an exit to other waters, was built that fast and commodious steamboat the City of Dresden, Capt. John Weston, in 1872. With a debt of barely \$5,000, she is in a position second to no other municipality in the County, and when the Erie & Huron gives her, with the Byron Trerice, a double communication with the outer world, she is to be envied and will be a pride to her citizens. Beyond the respected Mayor, the best known person at present—especially to Grit and Tory politicians—is a late Returning officer, excepting perhaps "Uncle Tom" of Institution fame.