

cations of the century. As a testimony to the value of his researches, it may be stated that in 1890-91, while the German Dr. Koch's treatment of tuberculosis was still attracting much attention, it was pointed out by the *Canada Lancet* that the idea of treating disease by inoculation of the products of bacteria, though a valuable suggestion to the practical therapist, was "in no sense a new one, for in the *London Medical Times and Gazette*, of March 14th, 1863, Sir James Grant, of Ottawa, showed the possibility of vaccination proving curative in many forms of contagious affections." Sir James is also a geologist of high standing, and he has written many valuable articles in connection with that science. The study of this science he undertook with the object of acquiring a more accurate knowledge of the origin of many diseases and their relation to the physical structure of the earth. This formed the subject of his inaugural address at the opening of the Medical Department of McGill University in 1889. Politically, he has always been a pronounced Conservative, and for eight years he represented Russell county in the Dominion Parliament. He was one of the first to recognize the necessity for a Canadian trans-continental railway, and he it was who introduced the original Pacific Railway Bill, the basis of which was formulated by the present Premier of Canada, Honorable Mr. Abbott. He was also a strong advocate of the admission of the North-West Territories and British Columbia into the Dominion; in support of which scheme he made many eloquent and convincing speeches in parliament. In religion, he belongs to the Presbyterian Church, to whose institutions, as well as to other charitable and philanthropic enterprises, he is a liberal contributor. In Ottawa he is a warm supporter of the Mechanics' Institute and the St. Andrew's Society, of both of which he has been president. He is also head of his Clan, and the present Chief of the Grants of Corrimony, and is one of the honorary vice-presidents for the world of the Clan-Grant Society of Glasgow. On Jan. 22nd, 1856, Sir James married Maria, daughter of the late Edward Malloch, who sat for Carleton in the Legislative Assembly of Upper Canada, and in the old Parliament of Canada after the union. The result of the marriage was a family of twelve children, seven of whom are living. Of his sons, the eldest, Dr. J. A. Grant, is practising in Ottawa; the second, Dr. H. Y. Grant, who was educated at McGill College, Montreal, and in London and New York, was recently appointed lecturer in Aural Surgery in the University of Buffalo; the third, Edward C., is Manager of the Ottawa Lumber Co'y, of Ottawa; the youngest, William W., distinguished himself at the Royal Military College, Kingston, winning

a position in the Royal Engineers, but at present he is engaged in electrical engineering in Canada. Three daughters are still living—one in Vancouver, B.C., Mrs. G. R. Major; Misses Harriett and Gwendoline, still with their parents. Though past his sixtieth year, Sir James Grant is still a very active man, a fact which is the more notable in view of the immense amount of work he has accomplished during the thirty-five years which have elapsed since he commenced the practice of his profession, which he is still actively employed in.

#### THOMAS R. MERRITT,

*St. Catharines, Ont.*

THE name Merritt is one which for many years past has been more or less intimately associated with public affairs in Western Canada, and the gentleman whose name leads this sketch is a not unworthy member of the old and distinguished family of which he is a scion. His ancestors, on the paternal side, were English. His grandfather, Thomas Merritt, like other U. E. Loyalists, at the close of the revolutionary war,—during the continuance of which he was a cornet in the Queen's Rangers,—gave up their homes in the American colonies and took refuge in those portions of the continent in which British authority still held sway. Leaving his property in New York state, and accompanied by his wife, Mary Hamilton, whom he had married at Charleston, S.C., in 1781, he proceeded to New Brunswick. That region, however, did not meet his expectations, and after remaining a few years, he and his wife set their faces towards old Canada. It was on July 3rd, 1793, while journeying westward, that William Hamilton Merritt was born. On reaching Upper Canada, in 1796, the family settled in what is now called Lincoln county, the site partly of St. Catharines and partly of the flourishing district around it, then little more than a trackless forest. It is unnecessary to dilate upon the trials and hardships which the settlers had then to undergo; they were such as were incidental to the country's pioneers, though they were met with dogged courage and invincible fortitude. When the war of 1812 broke out, the head of the family again took the field, this time as a major of cavalry, in which capacity he did good service. In 1800 he was appointed surveyor of woods and forests, and he was from 1803 to 1820 high sheriff of the district of country stretching all the way from Niagara to the Detroit river. William Hamilton Merritt grew up with the country, and in time took his place as one of the leading men of his era. For a number of years he sat in parliament as representative of Haldimand and the