

position he retains still. In 1872, Mr. Balfour was elected a public school trustee for St. Patrick's ward, St. Catharines, and retained this office for two years. After going to Amherstburg, in 1875, he was also elected a school trustee, and was re-elected for four successive years, during which time he was chairman of the board. In 1878, he was elected reeve of the town of Amherstburg, and served as chairman of the finance and educational committees of the county council, as well as auditor of the criminal justice accounts. He was also chairman of the finance committee of the town council of Amherstburg. In 1883, after his election to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, he retired from the Council of Amherstburg. In 1879, he contested the election for South Essex in the local house, with Lewis Wigle, M. P., and was defeated. In 1882, when Mr. Wigle was elected to the Commons, Mr. Balfour contested the same riding with Peter Wright, reeve of Colchester South, Essex, in the bye-election, and was elected, in the Reform interest, by a majority of seventy-two votes. At the general election of 1883, he defeated Thomas B. White, reeve of Anderdon, by a majority of thirty-four votes. On first appearing in the house in 1882, Mr. Balfour moved the address in reply to the speech from the throne, and has since served on the following committees, viz.: Public accounts, printing, municipal, railways, and private bills. Mr. Balfour, we may state, it was who introduced the bill which has been considerably discussed through the press, viz., that providing for the admission of Delos R. Davis, (coloured) of Colchester, to the bar of Ontario. Although persistently opposed, Mr. Balfour successfully carried his point, in the face of pronounced opposition by the legal fraternity, under the ægis of the law society. He has also carried on a vigorous crusade for the abolition of toll roads, and has already secured some legislation in that direction, as well as approval from both sides of the house. Mr. Balfour has also introduced and carried through several amendments to the Municipal Act. He has been a member of the Oddfellows, and has been, for ten years, a director of the South Essex and Anderdon and Malden Agricultural societies; has served as president of both, and is now a director of the South Essex Farmers' Institute. In 1868, he was secretary of the Y.M.C.A., at St. Catharines, and continued for some six years in that connection, besides being secretary at the provincial convention, held at Belleville, in 1872. In politics Mr. Balfour is a Liberal Reformer,

and is a member of the Reform Club, of Toronto. He was for eight years secretary of the South Essex Liberal Association, and for the last eleven years has delivered numerous campaign speeches in the interests of his party, through his own section of the country. We may add that he was conspicuous in the late "bribery conspiracy," which has been ventilated through the press of the country, and tried in the courts. In that case, of course, Mr. Balfour appears as a man of integrity and honour. In political work Mr. Balfour takes the deepest interest. He has the advantage of being thoroughly well informed upon current political history, and as his ability as a debater is very pronounced, he frequently joins very effectively in debate. To get the "ear of the house" is a very high compliment to bestow upon a speaker; but it is noteworthy that when Mr. Balfour is upon his feet, the house assumes an attitude of attentive listening. The chief speech, perhaps, delivered by him in the house was that, in 1885, in defense of Mr. Mowat's Redistribution Bill. Mr. Balfour is a Presbyterian. He married, in 1876, Josephine, eldest daughter of the late Colonel T. F. Brodhead, of Grosse Isle, Michigan, U. S., who was commander of the Michigan Cavalry Brigade, and who met a soldier's death at the field of Manassas, in Virginia. By this lady, Mr. Balfour has a family of five children.

Gunn, Alexander, M. P. for the City of Kingston, Ontario, is a Scotchman by birth, and came to Canada with his parents when a mere lad. He was born at Brims, Caithness-shire, Scotland, on the 5th of October, 1828. His father was James Gunn, who carried on farming and contracting in Caithness, and his mother was Janet Shearer. Both parents died many years ago, and left a family of two sons and three daughters, all of whom, with the exception of one daughter, still survive. Alexander, the eldest, received his early education at Fors parish school in Caithness, and finished in Kingston, where his parents first resided in coming to this country. Mr. Gunn began his career in the grocery business, with John Carruthers, in Kingston, and has kept steadily at this branch of business, until he may now be considered a prince of the trade. Being a public-spirited gentleman, he was induced by his many friends and admirers to offer himself as candidate for the House of Commons for the city in which he had spent nearly all his life; he consented, and at the general elections of 1878, was