

Union of Upper and Lower Canada, from 1857 to 1867, and under the union of all the provinces from 1867 to 1876. In May, of the latter year, he was appointed Postmaster, to the duties of which office he addresses himself with all the industry of his earlier years.

Mr. Stirton is a member of the Chalmers Presbyterian Church, was an elder at one time, many years ago, and is now a manager.

He was first married in 1842, to Miss Mary Beattie, of Puslinch, she dying three years later, leaving two daughters, Ann, the wife of Peter McGregor, farmer in the Township of Eramosa, and Mary, the wife of James Barday, of the City of Guelph; and the second time in 1847 to Miss Henrietta McGregor, a lineal descendant of Rob Roy McGregor. She died in February, 1879, leaving two children, others preceding her, in their infancy, to the spirit-world. James, her eldest born son, Manager of the Model Stock and Field Farm at Guelph, for some time, now resides in Manitoba, and Agnes is living at home. William Stirton, a brother of the Postmaster, was the first male child born in Guelph.

Our subject is as well acquainted with the rise and progress of Guelph as any man in the county. He saw it start in the dense woods over fifty years ago, and has lived to aid in adjusting its city robes. He has been identified, more or less, with its public improvements, and has a right to take pride in its growth and prosperity.

## THOMAS BENSON,

### PORT HOPE.

THE subject of this sketch, one of the most public-spirited and energetic men that ever lived in Port Hope, was Thomas Benson, son of James and Ann (Robinson) Benson, of Fintona, County of Tyrone, Ireland, where he was born January 11, 1804. The family came to America in 1816; settled at first at Lansingburgh, N. Y., three years later removed to Kingston, Upper Canada, and there James Benson died December 24, 1828, his widow dying at St. Catharines, August 30, 1854. They had a family of ten children, of whom only four are now living. Hon. James Rea Benson, a Senator of the Dominion of Canada, residing at St. Catharines; William Benson, Collector of Customs at Windsor; Ann, wife of John R. Dickson, M.D., until recently superintendent of the Lunatic Asylum at Rockwood, Kingston; and Joseph W. Benson, M.D., a Professor in a Medical College, Chicago.

The subject of this sketch was educated at Kingston; inclined to the legal profession, but was prevented from pursuing it on account of the prejudice against it existing in the minds of his parents; entered upon mercantile life, remaining in Kingston until 1832, when he removed to Port Hope, and here traded until 1837. On the breaking out of the rebellion, near the close