

CHARLES GIBB, B. A.

By Professor D. P. PENHALLOW.

Mr. Charles Gibb, son of the late James Duncan Gibb, was born in Montreal on the 29th of July, 1845. His early education was received at the Bishop's College Grammar School, from which he proceeded to McGill University, where he graduated in 1865. The hard work of a college course told somewhat severely upon a not very rugged constitution, with the result of impaired eyesight. For the purpose of recovering his health he then visited Europe, where he spent six months, returning very much benefited by the change. Natural weakness of the lungs, however, induced him to seek some active occupation which would give the benefit of open-air employment. This led to his spending several years with some of the more prominent fruit culturists of New York and New Jersey, from whom he gained a practical insight into the most approved methods of fruit culture. It was this experience which soon aroused a decided taste for horticulture, and eventually led to his adoption of that pursuit into which he threw so much energy and enthusiasm. Fortunately for himself and for the country whose good he sought to promote, Mr. Gibb was possessed of means sufficient to enable him to execute his plans without undue restriction, and future generations will have reason to hold in respect the name of one who, in so unselfish a spirit, endeavored to promote the welfare of his country in one of the most useful directions possible.

On his return from the States in 1872, he sought for a locality where he might pursue special studies in fruit culture and arboriculture, and eventually selected the warm, western slope of Yamaska mountain at Abbotsford, as fully meeting his requirements. In 1873 he purchased a large tract of land there, planted extensive orchards, established testing grounds for exotic trees and shrubs which might prove of value in Canada, and stimulated a local interest in his chosen pursuit, hitherto unknown in that part of Quebec. Here he established a delightful home, the door of which was constantly open to his many friends, all of whom have on more than one occasion, experienced the full measure of his most generous hospitality. This Society has special reason for holding Mr. Gibb's charming retreat and his warm hospitality in remembrance. Two of their most profitable and enjoyable Field Days were those held at Abbotsford.

Of a somewhat retiring disposition, strangers were not drawn to him as quickly as they might be to many others, but even a brief acquaintance was sufficient to reveal qualities which were certain to cement a warm and enduring friendship, while to those who knew him best, his greatest fault lay in a modesty which permitted him to sacrifice a just appreciation of his own merits. Pos-