

clerk of Public Works Department at the time of his death. Mr. Birkett's family consists now of two sons, his only daughter having died in childhood. Both in business circles and in private life Mr. Birkett has the reputation of being an estimable and useful citizen and a thoroughly upright and honourable man.

JOHN B. MCINTYRE,

St. Catharines.

THERE are few residents of the city of St. Catharines, especially among those of a later generation, who are better known than the subject of this sketch, for many qualities go to the making up of the man, his enterprise in business, his connection with public affairs, and his energetic support of every movement tending to promote the welfare of his native city. John Brewer McIntyre was born in St. Catharines, then a small town, on February 4, 1845, his parents being Thomas and Helen (Ker) McIntyre. The former was a native of the town of Forres, Morayshire, Scotland, and the latter, a native of the township of Grantham, of which St. Catharines originally formed a part. His family history, especially on his mother's side, embraces many interesting features connected with the early settlement of this portion of the country. Thomas McIntyre in his youth learned the trade of a cabinet-maker in the town of Elgin, Morayshire, and attained his majority on the ocean while aboard the vessel which bore him to Canada, and from which he landed at Quebec in 1831. From Quebec he went to New York in later times, and he used to relate with pride that he had a ride with the late Thurlow Weed and others on the first railway train ever run in that state. Finally he came to St. Catharines (1834), and located and commenced business in the furniture and undertaking line, and the name McIntyre which he then placed on his sign has never been taken down. He was a good mechanic, and by his energy and perseverance he in due time accumulated considerable wealth. Much of this he unfortunately lost, however, by endorsing for others during the panic-stricken times of 1855 and succeeding years. But through all changes he was noted for his integrity and other sterling features of character, and his name grew to be a household word in the community. In politics, he was a Reformer and a staunch loyalist, serving as a volunteer during the McKenzie rebellion of 1837. It was after coming to St. Catharines that he married (October 4, 1837) Helen Ker, the result of the union being a family of eighteen children, nine sons and nine daughters. Of these, six sons and six daughters are still living. In March,

1847, he joined the Masonic Craft—St. George's Lodge, No. 15, St. Catharines—of which he was the oldest member at the time of his death, in July, 1889. The same may be said of him in regard to the Independent Order of Odd-Fellows, which he joined in June, 1846. He died universally respected, and his funeral was one of the largest ever seen in St. Catharines. Mrs. McIntyre, sr., was one of the Ball family, well known in the Niagara district. Her father was Thomas Ker, who came to Canada in 1797, the family having originally come to America from Heidelberg, Germany, some years before the revolutionary war. Thomas Ker was one of the pioneers of Grantham township, his farm being where Merriton now stands, and he built the first chimney in St. Catharines, then known as Shipman's Corners. Helen Ker's mother was Elizabeth Ball, daughter of the late Jacob Ball, who was born September 21, 1784, and was the first white child born on the Niagara peninsula. To return to the immediate subject of our notice, J. B. McIntyre attended the public school and Grantham academy until he was fourteen years of age, when he entered his father's shop to acquire a knowledge of the business. In 1866 he was admitted as a partner, the name of the new firm being McIntyre & Son, which is still retained, and will be as long, at least, as the present incumbents live. In business matters, Mr. McIntyre long ago proved himself a worthy successor of his father in all that goes to make up a successful and honourable business man, and his fellow-citizens have not been slow to show their appreciation of him as a citizen. He sat for ten years consecutively as alderman for St. Andrew's ward, at the end of which period he retired for a term of five years. Again, at the solicitation of friends he returned to the council as mayor in January, 1889, and he held the position for two years, declining, in spite of strong pressure, to accept a third term. While he was a candidate for public honours, Mr. McIntyre never canvassed a vote—a very unique record, it will be said—and when he retired from the mayoralty he received unstinted praise from the press and people of all shades of political opinion for the manner in which he fulfilled his duties as chief magistrate. On leaving the mayor's chair he was presented with an illuminated address magnificently framed, on behalf of the council and citizens, as a token of appreciation of his efforts while on the aldermanic board. Among his co-workers throughout the country, he has also held a high place. He was founder of the Ontario Undertakers' Association, and was its first president, a position which he held for three years; and in 1885 he was the representative of the Association at the National Convention of Undertakers in Phila-