

WARRING KENNEDY.

TO BE elected Mayor of the city of Toronto is a considerable honor; to be elected by the largest majority ever given to a candidate for the office is a great honor; but to be re-elected for a second term is a greater honor and one seldom bestowed. By electing Warring Kennedy to be Mayor of their city for 1895, the citizens of Toronto have conferred this "greater" honor upon him. He was re-elected not because he was her most wealthy or most blue-blooded citizen, but because he was an honest, God-fearing, broad-minded business man, who in his term of office had spared neither his physical nor mental powers in his endeavor to promote the city's interests.

Few business men are willing to sacrifice their time and business to serve their city or their country. But those who do, deserve laurel wreaths for the sacrifices they make in undertaking work which too often is paid for only with severe criticism, and, perhaps, opprobrium.

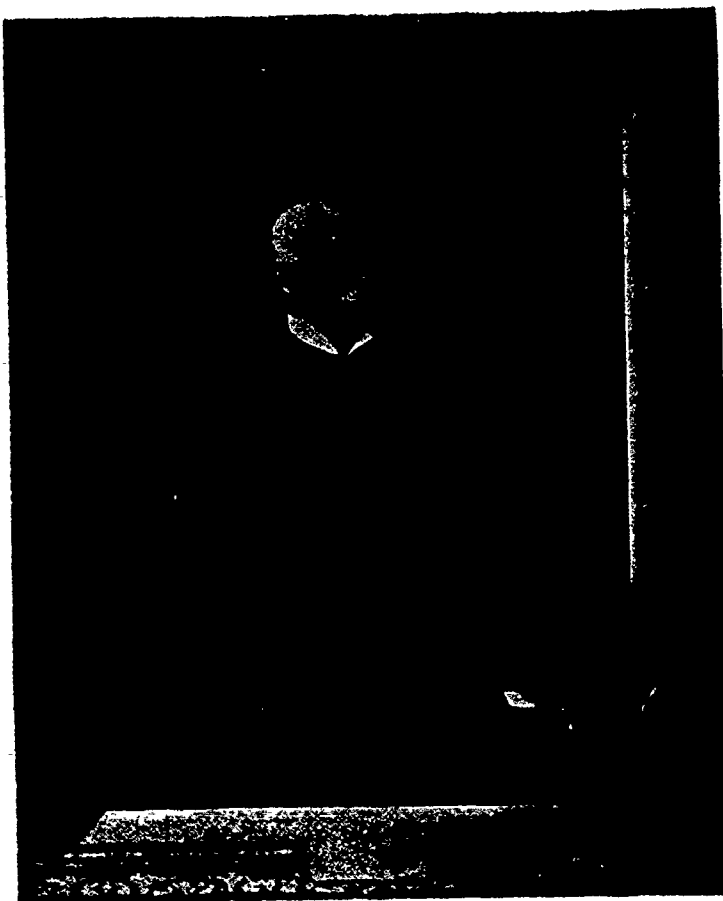
Bacon says: "The mould of a man's fortune is in his own hands." Mr. Kennedy, who is now sole surviving partner of the wholesale dry goods firm of Samson, Kennedy & Co., has exemplified this saying in his self-made record. He is a native of County Down, Ireland, and commenced his business career as an apprentice in a dry goods store in the town of Kiltrea. At the expiration of his apprenticeship he went to Belfast, where he lived for several years, occupying various positions of trust. Like many other young men of push and enterprise, he decided to try his fortune in Canada. He arrived in Toronto in 1857, during one of the greatest commercial crises that the country has passed through. Nothing daunted, he accepted a subordinate position, but his natural force of character soon drew marked attention to him, and his

services were eagerly sought after. His advancement was rapid, so much so that he was drawing the yearly salary of \$4,000, when in 1869 he formed a partnership with Mr. A. G. Samson and Mr. Alexander Gemmel, both since deceased, under the name of Samson, Kennedy & Gemmel. The three partners were all previously connected with the establishment of John Macdonald & Co. The firm commenced business in the warehouse, corner of Scott and Colborne streets, and, a few years ago, on the retirement of Mr. Gemmel, the firm name was changed to Samson, Kennedy & Co., under which it will continue.

Mr. Kennedy has, by persistent labor and application, won commercial and other honors of the worthiest description. He

has always been an indefatigable worker, not only in business but in helping along anything that enlisted his sympathy and approbation. He is a man of wonderful vitality and energy, earnest and persevering in his zeal for the good of his fellows, and untiring in his labors for the betterment of their condition, both morally and physically. He took a leading part in the organization of the Commercial Travelers' Association of Canada in 1871, being one of the charter members, and when the first annual meeting was held the following year he was honored by being elected president, and is now an honorary director. His interest in the association has never flagged, and when the Commercial Travelers' Mutual Benefit Society was formed in 1881 he was appointed treasurer, which office he still holds. He also takes a warm interest in the Commercial Travelers' Circle, which has for its chief object the promotion of temperance among the fraternity. As an evidence of his popularity he was

elected alderman in 1871, polling the largest vote on record, up to that time, in favor of any of the city fathers. In 1887 he was asked to run for Mayor, and, although he was unsuccessful in the contest, he polled a very large vote. He was several times urged to enter the political field, but declined, much to the chagrin and disappointment of his friends, as he is a ready, fluent and forcible speaker. His fellow-countrymen also showed their appreciation of his merits by electing him president of the Irish Protestant Benevolent Society in 1872. Mr. Kennedy is now chairman of the Board of the Toronto General Burying Grounds Trust; senior honorary secretary of the Upper Canada Bible Society; a member of the High School Board, and of the Board of Management of the House of Industry. He is also a member of the Executive Council of the Mutual Reserve Fund Life Association, and chairman of the



WARRING KENNEDY.
Mayor of Toronto for 1894 and 1895.
[From an oil painting.]

Canadian Board, and takes a keen personal interest in its affairs, as he does in everything with which he is connected. The oil painting from which the accompanying photo is taken was presented to him by this company.

Mr. Kennedy's devotion and loyalty to the cause of Methodism are known far and near. As local preacher, class leader, trustee, and Sabbath school superintendent he earned for himself the esteem and admiration of his co-religionists. He has been on several Conference committees, and a delegate from the Toronto-Conference to the General Conference, where he always took a prominent part in debates. He was the first layman to occupy the position of secretary of the Conference.