

when she was supposed to have been lost, having been twenty-one days out; but, fortunately, after a terrible voyage, arrived safely. Mr. Thompson has been a member of the Methodist church from his youth up. An old and worn out pocket book that he carried for many years contains the following scrap, showing the principles which have been his guide:—"Energy is a four-story virtue, and always pays. It is one of those accounts on which there is no discount. The chief difference among mankind is not so much in gift or talent as in energy—the drop of water that chisels the stone is only another name for energy. Nothing resists this virtue, and it conquers what it will, the only condition being time." His sons inherit the business tact and the high principle of integrity which have distinguished Mr. Thompson throughout his business career. To these young men the great proportion of the business to-day, maintained in the face of keen competition, is largely due.

**Gillies, Major John**, Gillies' Hill, Ontario, M.P.P. for North Bruce, is a native of the Parish of Kilcalomnell, Argyleshire, Scotland. He is a son of Hugh Gillies and Mary Blue, the latter being a descendant of one of the old families of the West Highlands, who were originally of the McDonald clan. Hugh Gillies was a farmer, and came to this country in 1855, settling in the township of Elderslie, County of Bruce, where he remained engaged in farming until his death in 1869. Mrs. Gillies died in Scotland. There was a family of ten children, the subject of this sketch being the sixth eldest. Major John Gillies received a parochial school education. At the age of sixteen he left school, and having a desire to travel and to try his fortune in the new world, he, in company with his two brothers, Malcolm and Dugald Gillies sailed for America, and reached Canada in August, 1852, and shortly afterwards settled upon a farm in the township of Elderslie, Bruce county, Ontario, and is now the possessor of a splendid farm of 300 acres of land, on which he at present resides. Mr. Gillies has taken some interest in militia affairs, and was appointed senior major of the Canadian militia. In 1856, he was elected township councillor of Elderslie, and continued for many years in the council, being reeve for over fifteen years and warden of the county for five years of that time. He has been provisional director of the Toronto, Grey and Bruce Railway, having taken much interest in railroad enterprises. In politics Mr. Gil-

lies is a staunch Liberal. He contested the North Riding of Bruce for the Commons against Colonel Sproat, defeating him in 1872 by a majority of twenty-three votes, and was elected by acclamation in 1874. In 1878, he again contested the riding against Colonel Sproat, and gained the election by a majority of 156 votes. In 1882, after the "gerrymander act," he was defeated by Alexander McNeil, being handicapped in the constituency by nearly 400 votes. However, in 1883, Mr. Gillies contested the same riding for the Ontario legislature against James Rowan, and was elected by a majority of 120 votes. Mr. Gillies is one of the most zealous and punctual members of the legislature, and devotes a great deal of attention to public affairs, and especially to them that are of moment to his own constituency. He does not often speak, but when he does, his utterances are characterised by careful thought and a thorough knowledge of the subject under discussion. In religion he is a staunch Presbyterian. He is not married.

**Balfour, William Douglas**, Amherstburg, Ont., M.P.P. for South Essex, was born in Forfarshire, Scotland, on 2nd August, 1851. He is a son of David Balfour, a member of a Kincairdineshire family, and Janet Douglas. Mr. Balfour, sr., came to Canada about 1857, and engaged in rail-roading. He is still living in the village of Allanburg; and Mrs. Balfour is likewise living there. There were five of a family, the subject of this sketch being the eldest. William Douglas Balfour received a Public school education, concluding his studies at the Grantham Academy, St. Catharines. At the age of fifteen he left school and engaged as school teacher in the townships of Grantham and Louth, where he remained for five years. He then received the appointment of secretary of the St. Catharines Board of Trade, and also that of librarian of the Mechanics' Institute. In 1872, he established the St. Catharines daily and weekly *News*, in partnership with R. Matheson; and these two gentlemen continued the publication until 1874, when the firm dissolved, Mr. Balfour retiring in the same year. He then removed to Amherstburg, Essex, where he founded a weekly paper, in partnership with J. A. Auld, under the firm name of Balfour & Auld, the paper being called the Amherstburg *Echo*. This partnership continued until 1885, when a joint stock company was formed under the name of the *Echo* Printing Co., Mr. Balfour being president of the company, which