

shaping the municipal laws and enforcing them, and with improving the Public School system of that town, Paris being somewhat noted for the high grade of its schools. For several years he took an active part in the Volunteer system; attended the Military School; took a first class certificate, and retired in 1870 with the rank of Captain. He was at one time President of the Paris Mechanics' Institute, and has a hand in all local enterprises of the least consequence.

Mr. Baird was the candidate of the Conservative party for the House of Commons in 1872, and of the Local Assembly in 1879, but living in a strong Reform district, was defeated both times.

His religious connection is with the Congregational Church. His moral character is unquestioned.

He is a member of the Masonic Order, and was Master of St. John's Lodge, No. 82, in 1877.

The wife of Mr. Baird is Cynthia, daughter of Horace Capron, of Paris, and niece of Hiram Capron, founder of the town. They were married October 24, 1858, and have five children, two sons and three daughters, Charles, the elder son, is a clerk in Toronto; the other four are at home, receiving a good drill in the local schools.

MATTHEW SWEETNAM,

TORONTO.

FOR more than a quarter of a century the subject of this sketch has been intimately identified with the Postal System of Ontario, and during that time he has given such evidence of possessing high executive abilities and business qualifications as entitle him to a place in this record of eminent and self-made men of this Province.

Matthew Sweetnam, Post Office Inspector of the District of Toronto, as we are informed by that book, "The Irishman in Canada," is of Irish descent, and first saw the light of day in Little York, now Toronto, on the 17th of October, 1831. His parents were Matthew Sweetnam, senior, and Elizabeth Reilly, both natives of that beautiful Isle to which Canada is indebted for so many of her stalwart sons and men of mark; the former was from Bandon, in the County of Cork, and the latter from Dumreilly, County Leitrim.

Mr. Sweetnam was educated in the city of Toronto, and after leaving school spent nearly two years in the *North American* newspaper office. In 1852 he entered the service of the Dominion Government as Assistant Postmaster of Toronto, and five years later was appointed Post Office Inspector of the Kingston Postal Division; retained this position until July 1st, 1870, when he was transferred to the Inspectorship of the Toronto Division, and since that time he has honorably discharged the duties of this responsible office. In 1862 Mr. Sweetnam was commissioned by the Government to examine into the management of the Post Offices at