

studied architecture, so that it might be, in after years, of value in his building business. In 1856 he left the old country and landed in Toronto, with his wife, and engaged as bookkeeper and assistant with Mr. Pim, then one of the best known contractors of the city. He remained with Mr. Pim one year, and then engaged with Worthington Bros., contractors, as their general manager, and with them he remained until 1865, when he went to Ohio, U. S., in the employ of Worthington & Robertson, as a railroad builder. In 1866 he returned to Toronto, and commenced business for himself in contracting and building. Mr. Dinnis has been engaged in the erection of some of the principal buildings of the city, among which are the University of Toronto, the Provincial Exhibition buildings, the Standard bank, and numerous other stately mansions and warehouses. Mr. Dinnis was engaged during the *Trent* affair, as a volunteer in No. 1 company, 10th Royals, and held a lieutenant's commission; and he is president of the Toronto Telephone Manufacturing Company. He is a Mason, and pastmaster of Rehoboam Lodge No. 65; he also belongs to the Masonic Benevolent Board, and was Grand Worthy Councillor of the Good Templars. Mr. Dinnis has been for years one of the foremost advocates of temperance, believing that the widespread use of intoxicants is the greatest curse with which any land can be afflicted. Mr. Dinnis has been an extensive traveller, and he has been through most of the United States, and three times visited the chief places of interest in Great Britain. He is a Baptist in religion, and a conservative in politics. He was married on April 10th, 1856, to Miss Eliza Ann Chard, daughter of Mr. Arthur Chard, of Falmouth, England, and one of the most prominent gentlemen of that town. Mr. Dinnis has had seven children. Mr. Arthur Dinnis, a son of the subject of this sketch, assists his father in the office.

**Bell, William, Guelph.**—William Bell, the head of the well-known firm of organ-builders at Guelph, Ontario, was born in Dumfries, Scotland, on September 5th, 1833. He is a son of William Bell, also of Dumfries, Scotland, and of Mary, whose maiden name was Wateret. When old enough, young Bell was sent to school, attending the educational institutions in his native town. When he left school he was equipped with a sound English education; for he was always a bright and a brilliant lad, and had turned his school days to good ac-

count. Having completed his education, he must needs turn him to some employment; consequently, he mastered a trade, which he plied for some time; but when he reached his twentieth year he resolved that he would ascertain what fortune had in store for him in the new world. He arrived in Toronto, but made no lengthened stay in that city. To New York he was resolved to go; and here he remained till 1864, during which year he paid a visit to his brother, who had begun the manufacture of organs and melodeons at Guelph, Canada. So allured was he with the prospect which the enterprise held out, that he took a partnership in the business, and remained in Guelph. After a little, his was the head that planned and the hand that directed the business. In time the brother retired, and the management came entirely into the hands of William. We have seen it stated that the Bell organ manufactory, like many another important undertaking, had its origin in a very humble way. In 1865 the upper room in "a rickety building on Windham Street was enough to meet the demand," while a couple of hands were all that was necessary to turn out the one complete organ each week. Very soon, however, the enterprise, with Mr. Bell's strong hand and soundly calculating head behind it, got out of its swaddling clothes. Not long thereafter there reared itself upon the site of the old factory a capacious and stately three-story brick building, equipped with every convenience for the trade to be carried on within its walls. In the newly equipped establishment there were turned out each month 100 organs; and there were about 100 hands employed. In a little, Mr. Bell's instincts taught him to look to England for a market, and the result of the effort was splendid success. The editor avails himself of the following extracts respecting Mr. Bell and his splendid factory, from *Brianard's Musical World*:—

In 1881, being unable to obtain more room for extension at the old building, he decided on the erection of a second factory, and to occupy both. This idea, once formulated, was carried out with an energy, which showed the man to be equal to the emergency. The new building was erected at a cost of \$35,000, from which an estimate can be formed of its dimensions. But the acquisition of room was not the only question considered in its construction. Architectural beauty was not lost sight of, and its basement walls of cut stone—above that the three-story pile of brick work, with the