

Our subject was educated in the grammar school at Barrie, where he clerked a while in a general store, afterwards holding a like situation in a store in Toronto.

In 1853, Mr. Stewart commenced the mercantile business for himself at Cookstown, in the county of Simcoe, removing from that place, and settling in Orangeville, in 1859. Here he has a general store, and in that line usually does from \$20,000 to \$25,000 of trade a year. He also deals in grain and produce, his business in the aggregate being quite extensive.

Mr. Stewart started in life with no capital but a sound constitution, a willingness to work, and a desire to accumulate by honest means; he has been prudent in managing his affairs, economical in his habits, and hence successful in his ventures generally. He is the largest dealer, in his line of business, of any man now here and no one has a better financial standing.

Mr. Stewart was in the township council one year; was the first reeve of the village of Orangeville, serving at different periods for five or six years, and was warden in 1879, holding the latter office at the time of the preparation of this sketch. He is Vice-President of a local Building society. In politics he is a pronounced Conservative, and is Vice-President of the Conservative Association for the county of Dufferin.

Mr. Stewart was reared in the English church, is a communicant in the same, and has held the office of warden of St. Marks, Orangeville. His success in life is the natural result of his own persevering energy, indomitable courage, and genuine worth.

His wife was Esther Olive Rutledge, daughter of Henry Rutledge, an early settler in Streetsville, county of Peel. They were joined in wedlock in 1860, and have six children living, and have lost one daughter.

THOMAS WILLIAMS,

ST. THOMAS.

FEW men now living are more worthy of a place in this book, as a pioneer in Elgin county and a self-made man, whose self-reliance, perseverance and industry in life made him successful, than Thomas Williams. He was born in Manchester, Eng., April 5, 1803. His father, a silk manufacturer, was Richard Williams, and the maiden name of his mother was Mary Rice. The latter died at the great age of ninety-three, and then from the effects of an accident, and the former lived to be seventy-eight. In 1816, the family left the old country, and came to New York, where they lived until the spring of 1817, when, Mr. Williams wishing his four sons to obtain lands in British possessions, they removed to Upper Canada. June 7th, they reached Southwold, near the Dunwich town line, and not far from the home of Col. Talbot, with whom our subject was well acquainted. The country was a wilderness at that time, and none of the family knew anything about farming; but Mr. Williams was a man of means, energy and intel-