

stances for many years, but some of the older families want no other physician, and he tries to accommodate them.

Notwithstanding the busy professional life which Dr. Cook lived for nearly fifty years, he was often almost forced into office, and has held nearly every civil position in the gift of the people of the township and county. In 1854-1858 he served the constituency of the South Riding of Oxford in the Canadian Parliament. He carried through the charter for the Canadian Literary Institute, now a flourishing school at Woodstock. He was the first bank manager at Norwich, and is a Director of the Port Dover and Lake Huron Railway, which he aided liberally with his funds in building.

The Doctor was Postmaster at Norwich at an early day, when there was only a weekly mail from Burford, arriving on Saturday and making Sunday a delivery day. His recollections of those times are quite vivid. The best pulpit talent could not be commanded at that period; the supply of teachers was rather meagre, and sermon or no sermon, the people who came five, ten and fifteen miles for their letters and papers, were more earnest to get secular than gospel news. It was glad tidings when they had a letter from far away friends; and a newspaper a month old, or if from the old country, three months old, was fresh and refreshing.

Dr. Cook holds no church connection, but is a Presbyterian, and a Christian believer, and, in his physical weakness, finds a staff and support in the Divine promises.

His wife was Phebe English, native of Ireland, and daughter of John English, who died at London, Ontario, in July, 1879, aged 96 years; married in January, 1834. They have three sons, all living in Norwich. George A. is a barrister; Ephraim C. is a medical student, and John H. a student at law.

VERY REV. MICHAEL BOOMER, LL.D.,

LONDON.

DEAN BOOMER, son of George Boomer, a linen manufacturer of Huguenot descent, and Mary Knox, of Scotch ancestry, was born at Hill Hall, near Lisburn, County of Down, Ireland, January 1, 1810. The name was originally spelt Bulmer, and the progenitor of the family in Ireland was René Bulmer, who with his wife fled from France about the time of the revocation of the Edict of Nantes, and settled at Lambeg, in a house now called the Priory. The name was finally changed from René Bulmer to Rainey Boomer. An interesting anecdote is told of him in the "Ulster Journal of Archeology." As King William (of Orange) passed through Lambeg on one occasion, about 190 years ago, he was met by Mr. Bulmer, who addressed him in French. After explaining to the King the cause of his being in Ireland, as His Majesty was about to pass on, his humble subject asked permission to embrace him. The King