

the first rebellion broke out, and Mr. Mair was taken prisoner with a number of other loyal Canadians, and for many weeks was kept in close confinement in Fort Garry, and afterwards in the Court House. After some weeks, Louis Riel told Mr. Mair that he intended to have him executed, but with the assistance of his fellow prisoners, Mr. Mair and a few others succeeded in effecting their escape, and reaching Portage La Prairie. Here they raised a force, which, under Major Boulton, marched to Fort Garry and induced Riel to deliver up his prisoners. Afterwards, by treachery, Major Boulton and Thomas Scott and others were captured, and Scott murdered. Mr. Mair escaped and walked on snowshoes some 400 miles, reaching St. Paul in thirty days, whence he came to Ontario, where he, Dr. Schultz and Dr. Lynch, received a hearty welcome from their native province. After the restoration of law and order, Mr. Mair returned to the North-West and endeavoured to recover his papers and MSS., which had been scattered during his imprisonment. All his efforts were unavailing, and the work of years was gone forever. Disheartened by the loss, he abandoned literature, and entered into the fur trade and general business at Portage La Prairie, where he remained till 1876, when he moved to Prince Albert, where he resumed the same business. During this period, at long intervals, he contributed a few articles to the *Canadian Monthly*. About the year 1883 he foresaw the trouble coming, which culminated in the North-West rebellion of 1885, and finding that no steps were taken by the government to remove the causes of discontent, he decided that it would be unsafe to leave his family at Prince Albert, and, therefore, removed to Windsor, Ontario, where he settled down to wait till the troublous times were ended. Finding that he had enforced leisure, he turned again to literature, and wrote the drama of "Tecumseh," which has just been issued (March, 1886). While he was engaged at this work, the rebellion broke out, and he at once made up his mind to proceed to the North-West and take part in the campaign. He was attached to the Governor-General's Body Guard as quarter-master, and served with that corps during the whole campaign, and returned with the same to Toronto, where the corps were relieved from active service, and he was enabled to complete his drama. Notwithstanding the fruition and promise in Mr. Mair's early volume, "Dreamland and other poems," it is by his

lately published work that he will take a foremost and an enduring place in the domain of purely Canadian letters. A volume of high-class verse is not a work that usually finds a rapid sale; but the history of the book under discussion, has been unprecedented in Canada in this respect. At the date of writing, though "Tecumseh" has been only a few weeks before the public, the edition is almost exhausted. It was received by the press with the strongest possible encomiums, and is the first book, wrought entirely of Canadian material, that has taken a thorough and permanent hold upon our own people. Its passports to the heart of the Canadian community were its lofty spirit of patriotism, the nobleness of its sentiment, its sympathetic insight into the questions with which it deals, and its splendid literary qualities. The imagery is rich and varied, but it is always true to nature, and to the human heart. "Tecumseh" is a work that the country will not allow to perish. It is gratifying to be able to write in this way of a drama, the subject of which is Canadian material, the writer of which is a son of our own soil. Mr. Mair married on the 8th September, 1869, at Red River, Eliza Mackenney, a niece of Dr. Schultz.

Thompson, Thomas, J.P., Toronto, head of the firm of Thomas Thompson & Sons, King street east, Toronto, was born in Toronto, on January 9th, 1832. His father was a native of Yorkshire, England, and his mother was Rebecca Boyce. The subject of our sketch was married, at the age of twenty-three, to Hester Carbert, and has had a family of seven sons, two of whom, Boyce and William, are partners in the business, Boyce, the eldest son, being admitted in 1881, and William two years later. In 1882, Mr. Thompson was induced to stand as candidate to represent East Toronto, in the Liberal interest, in the Dominion Parliament, but was defeated by the present member, Mr. Small. It is not from connection with political annals that Mr. Thompson is looked upon as a representative Canadian, but from the fact that he has made for himself a conspicuous name in his native city as a thorough man of business and a successful merchant. He is one of the few who have passed through many periods of commercial depression, and built up an extensive business on a sound basis, and in consequence gained the confidence of his customers, and maintained his credit. Mr. Thompson has crossed the Atlantic seventy-three times, and was on board the *Great Eastern* on her last voyage home,