

ing vessels along the canal. To the first team he soon added a second, and thus he kept increasing his facilities until he became known as the owner of an important towing line, a fact which, in those palmy days of canal traffic, indicated that John Battle was on the high road to success. From towing vessels along the canal, he acquired an interest in the vessels themselves, and early in "the sixties" he was the owner of a number of schooners and tugs, with which he did a large and successful business. But the time was rapidly coming when the shipping interest would have to give place to that of the railways, and Mr. Battle was shrewd enough to dispose of his vessel property before the change came and give his attention to other lines of commerce. Probably the most important enterprise in which he then engaged was the purchase of the cement mills, which had been owned and operated by the late John Brown, a well-known contractor. The latter had utilized the mills in connection only with his own contracts, but Mr. Battle saw great possibilities in working them on a larger scale, and with his usual confidence he embarked in the enterprise. How he succeeded is well known; the industry became an important one, and for years the Thorold cement mills have been known, and their products have found a market all over the Dominion. The mills were originally purchased from the Brown estate in 1877, by Messrs. Battle and Fraser in partnership, but in the following year the former became sole proprietor, and it was under his skilful management that the business grew to such large proportions. But while working hard for himself he was not unmindful of the general interest; it was almost entirely owing to his exertions that a branch of the Canadian Bank of Commerce was established in Thorold, and he afterwards became a large stockholder in that institution and also one of the chief promoters of the Niagara Casket and Coffin Co., the location of which in Thorold was brought about chiefly by his action. Throughout his business career he was known for his sterling integrity and straightforward dealing; by nature and disposition he was kind-hearted and generous, and personally he was held in the highest regard by many warm friends. For public honours he did not care, and he always refused to allow himself to be put forward in that connection, though in municipal affairs, as well as in the wider field of Provincial and Dominion politics, he exercised a powerful influence in his immediate locality. From the time of the inauguration of the National Policy, by Sir John A. Macdonald, he was always a strong supporter of the Liberal-Conservative party in Dominion contests. In religion he was a Roman Catholic, having been born and brought up in that faith, and he was

always a liberal contributor to the church and her institutions. As marking the respect in which Mr. Battle was held in Thorold, we may here quote the following resolution passed by the Town Council after his death:

"Moved by William Williams, seconded by William Gearin,—That this Council desire to express their sincere sorrow and profound regret at the loss which this corporation has sustained through the death of Mr. John Battle, who was one of the pioneers of our town, and who has been one of our most progressive and public-spirited men, always ready to assist every worthy enterprise that would benefit the community. We feel that in the death of Mr. Battle this town loses a valued and worthy citizen; and we extend to Mrs. John Battle and family our heartfelt sympathy in this their sad bereavement, as they lose a kind husband and an affectionate father."

In the old town of Niagara, on December 27th, 1851, Mr. Battle married Cecilia, daughter of the late Patrick Cullen. The result of this union was a family of twelve children, of whom, nine sons and two daughters survive. His son John has been collector of customs at Thorold for the past fifteen years, while David, James, and Matthew carry on the cement business, with which they grew thoroughly familiar during their father's lifetime. David and James Battle also take a prominent part in public affairs; the former has served several years in the council, and at present he is chairman of the Separate School Board and member of the High School Board of Trustees. James is Deputy-Reeve of the town, and is already a leading factor in municipal and general politics. Mr. Battle's family enjoy the respect and confidence of the community in which they live, a community that holds also in high esteem the memory of their worthy father.

H. D. CAMERON,
Hamilton, Ont.

ONE of the solid financial institutions of Ontario is the Hamilton Provident and Loan Society, and distinctively associated with it is the gentleman whose name appears at the head of this sketch. The story of his career is not without its incentive to the rising generation in this young country. Hugh Duncan Cameron was born at Lawers, Perthshire, Scotland, July 26th, 1833. His parents, Alexander and Catharine (Sinclair) Cameron, had a family of twelve children, of whom the subject of our sketch was the fifth. They came to Canada in 1852, and settled in Stanley township, Huron county, where the father took up land. Hugh, who was of studious habits, and had attended a private academy in Edinburgh before coming to this country, continued his education, and in due time obtained a public school teacher's certificate and began to teach. He first taught