

**Macdonald, Robert Tyre, M.D.,** C.M., M.C.P.S., Sutton, Quebec province, was born at Ellerslie, Brockville, August 1, 1850. His father was a graduate in arts of Edinburgh University, who came to Canada when quite a young man and entered into mercantile pursuits at Dundee, Que., where he soon amassed a fortune, and afterwards removed to Brockville, where he continued his mercantile calling. He claimed descent from the "Lords of the Isles," Dunvegan Castle, Isle of Skye, being the family seat. His mother was Elizabeth Elliott Ogilvie, daughter of Captain Alexander Ogilvie, and niece of the late Col. Davidson. His family were noted in Scottish history for having been custodians of the Scottish crown. The subject of our sketch received his early education by private tuition, and afterwards entered Fort Covington Academy. After leaving school he was for a time in the employ of S. J. Howel & Bro. of Millbrook; Ont., and also with T. B. Collins of the same place. He came to Montreal in 1875, and entered the wholesale establishment of B. Levin & Co., leaving there in 1876 to enter McGill University as a student in medicine, and graduated with distinction in 1881. He is surgeon in the 52nd Battalion Brome Light Infantry, surgeon South-Eastern Railway, and medical health officer, township of Sutton. Has been twice elected master of Sutton Lodge, No. 39, A.F. & A.M. Is at present district deputy grand master A.F. & A.M., for counties of Sheffield, and Brome. He is unmarried, and in enjoyment of a large and lucrative practice.

**Mason, Thos. G.,** Toronto, Ontario, was born at Ivybridge, Devonshire, England, and when seven years of age came to Canada with his parents, settling in Toronto. He received his early schooling from J. R. Mair, so well known as a successful teacher, and by whom many of Toronto's prominent citizens were first introduced to the classics. Mr. Mason's business career commenced in 1849, when he entered the *Globe* office as a junior clerk, J. C. Fitch being at the time manager of the office. In those early days the *Globe* was published only three times per week, Mr. Mason having charge of the mailing department. In 1854 he became assistant book-keeper for the firm of A. & S. Nordheimer, and remained with them seventeen years. It was at the close of this thorough and successful business apprenticeship—namely, in 1871—that Mr. Mason, in association with V. M. Risch, founded the present firm of Mason & Risch, as dealers in and

importers of pianofortes and musical instruments, and by the energy displayed and the superior business methods adopted, they gradually established themselves as one of the most successful business firms in Toronto. Being thoroughly conversant with the subtle and difficult science of acoustics which their lengthened experience had given them, and being withal practical men, they directed their attention to the construction and development of the pianoforte, and in 1878 began their manufacture, keeping the central idea steadily in view of building up and winning a reputation for a Canadian pianoforte of the highest standard worthy to rank with those of the most famous makers in Europe or the United States. To this end, and to carry out their high artistic ideas, both members of the firm travelled through the principal manufacturing countries of Europe in search of skilled artisans and the highest grade of materials with which to stock their factory; and unquestionably it is to this foresight and care, coupled with the thorough knowledge of their work, and natural artistic talent, that the excellence of the Mason & Risch pianofortes is attributable. In this connection it cannot be out of place, or other than gratifying to Canadians to refer to the distinguished compliment which the late Dr. Franz Liszt paid the firm in sending them a full-sized portrait of himself, painted by the eminent artist Baron Joukowsky. This painting is one of the finest works of art in the Dominion. In 1886 the firm exhibited their pianofortes at the memorable Colonial and Indian Exhibition, which took place in London, England. The preeminence given them there, and the high professional testimony of the highest English musical authorities, placed their pianos in the foremost rank, and of which Canada may well be proud. That year Mr. Mason was honored by being elected a member of the Royal Society of Arts, London, of which His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales is president, and also was made a member of the Musical Association of Great Britain, of which the Rev. Sir Frederick A. Gore Ouseley, Bart., M.A., Mus. Doc. Oxon., and Prof. of Music, University, Oxford, is president. This society was formed May, 1874, for the investigation and discussion of subjects connected with the art and science of music, and is one of the most influential musical associations in the world. As a business man, Mr. Mason is both cautious and bold. He seldom acts rashly or from impulse. He weighs every