

Charlton, John, M.P. for North Norfolk, Lynedoch, was born near Caledonia, Livingston County, N.Y., on February 3rd, 1829. His father, Adam Charlton, came from Newcastle-on-Tyne to New York in 1824. His mother's maiden name was Ann Gray; her father's family came from Northumberland county, England, at an earlier period, and she was born at Gorham, N. Y., soon after they arrived in America. The Charltons are one of the oldest families in England, and their genealogical records in Northumberland date back to the eleventh century. The subject of this sketch was educated at the McLaren Grammar School, Caledonia, N. Y., and at the Springville Academy, N. Y. In 1832 his father moved to Ellicottville, Cattaraugus county, N. Y., where he soon afterwards entered into the employment of the Holland Land Company. He remained in Ellicottville till his removal to Canada, in 1849. The earlier years of Mr. John Charlton's life do not furnish many events worthy of record. His father lived a portion of his time upon a farm near Ellicottville, and part of the time in the latter village. Here young Charlton learned to work on a farm, and in his leisure moments he learned to set type in the office of the *Cattaraugus Whig*. He likewise, for amusement, read a little law in the office of A. G. Rice. In the spring of 1846 he made a trip on a lumber raft down the Alleghany and Ohio rivers to Cincinnati, and always in later years retained vivid recollections of this five weeks' experience with the rough but warm-hearted raftsmen of the Alleghany. When his father removed to Canada, John was twenty years of age. The family settled near the village of Ayr, Waterloo county, and the next four years of his life was spent upon his father's farm, where he worked steadily and diligently. At the age of twenty four when about leaving for Minnesota, he accepted the proposal of George Gray, of Charlotteville, Ont., to open a country store upon Big Creek, in the County of Norfolk, at Wilson Mills, where the post office of Lynedoch had recently been established. A building for dwelling house and store was erected here, mainly by the labour of himself and his partner, and the firm of Gray & Charlton commenced business in 1853, with a total capital of less than \$1,800, including the cost of the building. The country was new and pine timber was abundant. The new firm soon managed to engage in the timber business, in connection with Smith, Westover & Co., of Tonawanda, N.Y., and by dint of economy and industry

their business succeeded far beyond their expectations. In 1859, Mr. Charlton sold out his interest in the store at Lynedoch, and took charge of the extensive timber business of Smith & Westover in Canada. In 1861, in company with James Ramsdell, of Clarence, N.Y., he bought out the Canadian interest of Smith & Westover, and for four years Ramsdell & Charlton did a successful business. In 1865 Mr. Charlton bought the interest of his partner, Mr. Ramsdell, and conducted the business successfully in his own name for several years. Since then he has been associated in the lumber business with his brother, Thomas Charlton, and with Alonzo Chesbrough, of Toledo, Ohio; and at this time (1885) is actively engaged in the lumber trade in the firm of Chesbrough & Charlton, of which he is manager; and in the timber trade in the firm of J. & T. Charlton. Mr. Charlton still resides at Lynedoch, Ont., where he has had his home since 1853. In 1854 he married Miss Ella Gray, of Lynedoch, who was born at Portage, N.Y., August 12, 1838. Mr. Charlton's first connection with politics was in 1872, when he accepted the nomination for the Commons in North Norfolk, and after a sharp and exciting contest, extending from June 20th to August 5th, defeated Aquilla Walsh, Esq., the Intercolonial Commissioner, who had represented North Norfolk in the previous Parliament. He has continued to represent North Norfolk since that time, having been four times returned, viz., in the general elections of 1872, 1874, 1878 and 1882. In politics he is an advanced Liberal. He has taken an active and laborious part in the work of the House of Commons. In early life he was a Protectionist, but was led by subsequent investigation and study to pronounce in favour of a revenue tariff policy as the proper one. While he believes that Canada must ultimately become independent, he doubts whether the proper time has yet arrived for that change; and although fully alive to the material benefits that would accrue to Canada from annexation to the United States, yet is in favour of the continuance of Canadian autonomy, if a proper and honest administration of our affairs can be secured. He believes that the experiment of working out the British system of responsible government side by side with the American system, is likely to prove of great interest and value to the inhabitants of the two countries and to Anglo Saxon communities and other free commonwealths in all parts of the world. In religion, Mr. Charlton is a Presbyterian,

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