

competent physician, have so far acted in his behalf, that he is now prosperously established. The promise that he displayed as a student, it is not flattery to say, has been well borne out in the practical tests of his life. Dr. Smith is a P.G. in the Canadian order of Oddfellows, and is past master in the A. O. U. W., No. 156, Orangeville. In religion he adheres to the Baptist faith. In 1873 he married Sarah E., daughter of Joel Edmunds, of the township of Holland, in the County of Grey.

**Skinner, James Atchison**, Hamilton, ex-M.P., Lieutenant-Colonel commanding 13th Battalion of V. M., is a native of the Royal burgh of Tain, Ross-shire, Scotland, was born there on the 26th October, 1826. He is a son of Hugh Ross Skinner and Mary Fraser McPherson, both of whom came to Canada in 1861. His father died at Hamilton in 1865, and his mother, now in her 86th year, resides in Winnipeg, with her youngest daughter, the wife of the Rev. Dr. John M. King, principal of the Presbyterian college, Manitoba. Hugh Ross Skinner was a saddler, to which trade he served a seven years' apprenticeship, on the expiry of which he went to London, where he resided for several years. On his return to the Highlands, being born freeman of the burgh, he began business on his own account, and shortly afterwards established a branch in Sutherlandshire, at that time there being no one of his trade in that county. He continued in business until his removal to Canada. He had the honour of being appointed saddler and harness-maker to her Majesty the Queen, and for many years supplied what was required for the home farm at Windsor. James A. Skinner was educated at the Tain Royal academy and afterwards at the Grammar school, where the usual English branches as well as the rudiments of Latin and Greek were taught. He came to Canada in 1843 having been nearly three months on board ship. He stayed with his uncle, Col. Alex. McPherson of Whitby, until the fall of that year, when he obtained employment in the wholesale dry goods firm of Kennedy, Parker & Co. of Hamilton, with whom he remained until 1850, when in connection with his younger brother, the late Andrew Fraser Skinner, he commenced business as importers and wholesale dealers in earthenware, &c. This business he still carries on under the management of one of his sons who was taken into partnership after the death of his uncle. The business done for many years was confined to the western

peninsula; but it grew with the country until now the customers, of James A. Skinner & Co. are to be found all over the Dominion from one ocean to the other; and the house has the honour of being the pioneer of its particular branch of trade in Manitoba, the North-West territories, and British Columbia. On the first organization of the volunteer force in 1855, Mr. Skinner joined No. 2 company, Hamilton, as a private, and remained in connection with the same until the formation of a Highland company, in 1856, to which he was appointed ensign. This company was subsequently disbanded. On the occurrence of the *Trent* affair he raised a new company of 65 men, to which he was gazetted captain, his brother being next in command. This company was clothed in full Highland dress at Capt. Skinner's own expense. Being on class B, and consequently receiving no pay, he, on the visit of the Prince of Wales to Hamilton, turned out more men for duty during the three days, than the other two companies combined, although under pay. He remained in command of the Highland company until the formation of the 13th battalion in 1862, to which he was appointed senior major, the late Hon. Isaac Buchanan being lieutenant-colonel. In 1863 he commanded the battalion at Brantford, where General Napier reviewed a force of 1,000 regulars, 2,300 volunteers and about 200 Indians. In 1866 Major Skinner was present with the battalion at the engagement with the Fenians at Limeridge, Col. Booker being in command, he having been gazetted *vice* Col. Buchanan, retired. Shortly after meeting the enemy, the Queen's Own being in front, Major Skinner was ordered to advance with the right wing of the 13th and relieve skirmishers, which he did; and when the bugle sounded the retire he was engaged with the enemy, having taken possession of the barricades which they had put up, and in the orchard in front, the Fenians having retired to the bush beyond. On reaching the place where the main body had formed square, it was found to have entirely disappeared. Major Skinner found several wounded men on the road, and had them placed on doors and carried to the village of Ridgeway, where he learned that the main body of the troops had taken the road for Port Colborne. He remained for about an hour in the village caring for the wounded, and then with about sixty men took the road for the port, at which he arrived about 6 o'clock. On the following day he received orders to