

CANADA CITIZEN

AND TEMPERANCE HERALD

FREEDOM FOR THE RIGHT MEANS SUPPRESSION OF THE WRONG.

VOL. 5.

TORONTO, FRIDAY, JUNE 19th, 1885.

NO. 51.

OUR PORTRAIT GALLERY.

JAMES DOBSON, Esq., J.P.

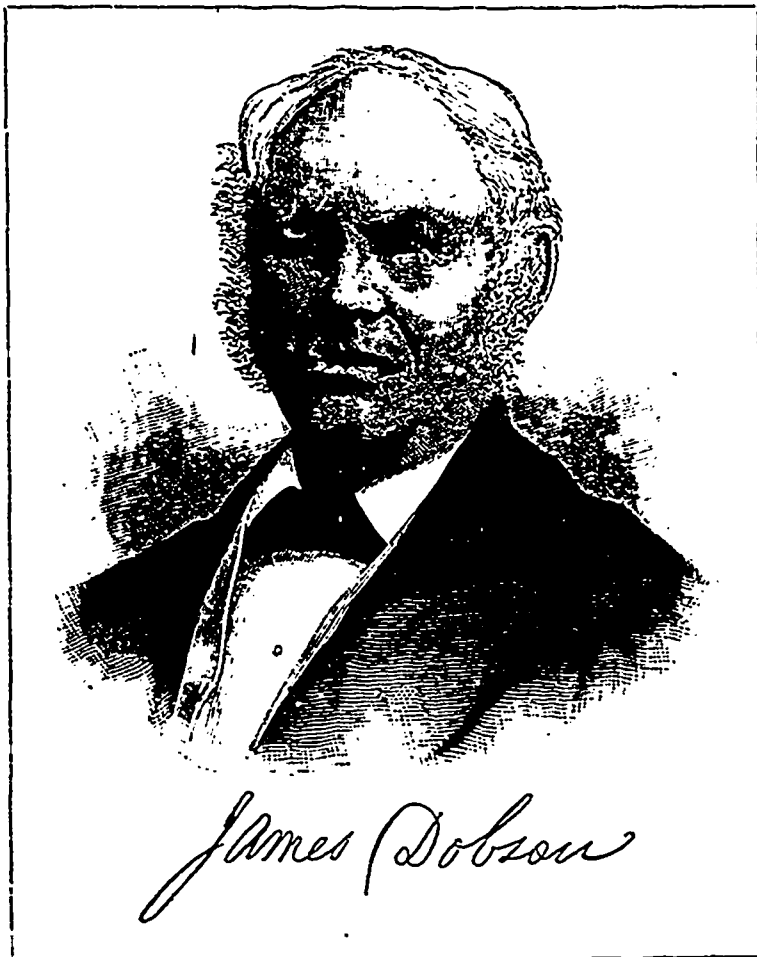
The venerable and esteemed brother, whom we have the pleasure of presenting this week to the readers of THE CANADA CITIZEN, is one of the best known and most highly respected of Toronto's veteran temperance workers. His whitened locks and genial face are always central and always welcome, when our ranks are rallying for some new battle or meeting to celebrate and return thanks for victory and progress. Whenever a crisis comes, those of us who are younger and less experienced, instinctively turn to our no less zealous senior, whose thoughtful advice and kind encouragement are ever at our disposal, and whose prompt liberality never fails us when we are in need of the "sinews of war," to help on our campaign.

Saturday, of the present week,—the day on which this paper reaches most of our readers—is the seventy-fifth birthday of our worthy friend, and we earnestly pray that he may be spared to celebrate many more anniversaries. He has often expressed a desire to live to see total prohibition the law of our whole Dominion, and we trust that he will yet join in the song of victory with those whom he has so often cheered and aided in the conflict.

Mr. Dobson is of Irish parentage and birth. He came to Canada at twenty-five years of age, having previously served an apprenticeship, and became a qualified architect and builder. He made himself a home a short distance north of Toronto, and subsequently, when that locality became a village, he was chosen its first Reeve, and remained for many years a member of the Council. To his energy and perseverance was due much of the early success of the new municipality. Yorkville has since been annexed to Toronto, and our friend is now a fellow-citizen. His home was for long the centre of religious and temperance work, he being an active member of the Methodist Church, and one of the first leaders of the Canadian temperance reform. In the rebellion of 1837, he carried arms to sustain the

government of the day, believing in the maintenance of order and law, although he ever has been, and is still, a stern denouncer of the oppressive rule that led to that unhappy outbreak. In 1840, he was married to Miss S. A. Moore, and his home life has been as happy as his business career has been successful; and sons and daughters have grown up to do credit to the Christian training that they have received. Many marks of esteem have been bestowed upon Mr. Dobson by those with whom he has been associated in both public and private life, and to-day he enjoys a reputation for integrity, manliness, gentleness and nobility of character, such as few have the happiness to attain.

The earliest temperance society that was formed in Toronto counted James Dobson as one of its members. Subsequently, he was an active worker in both the "Good Templars," and the "Sons." When the Dunkin Act was carried in the County of York, and became an actual law Mr. Dobson was called upon as Justice of the Peace to take an active part in its enforcement, and he did his duty so well that the liquor traffic was crushed for the time, though it stored up against the fearless magistrate a hatred and malice that are not yet exhausted. The cowardly trick of boycotting has been practised against him ever since, but no opposition or ill-treatment could ever make the grand old man waver for even a moment in his adherence to the cause of morality and right. An active Blue Ribbon movement in North Toronto, owes much to the assist-



ance of our earnest brother's zeal; he has worked hard for the Temperance Electoral Union; the Toronto Temperance Christian Mission counts him among its cherished supporters; indeed, there is scarcely a temperance enterprise in Canada to-day that has not enjoyed the benefit of his co-operation and generosity. For many years he has been a Vice-President of the Dominion Alliance, and rarely misses a meeting of the Executive Council of that important organization.

The portrait that we have secured falls far short of doing justice to one who has made himself a home in all our hearts, and