

win men to virtue, he has, since entering on city life, taken an active interest in those unfortunates who have been sent to prison for crimes and misdemeanors. He not only visits them while in the jail, but looks after them when they come out. The object, he holds, is to help those unfortunate people and try to reform them rather than to let them drift. To accomplish this, he first labours to convince them that there is still hope, and then, when the opportunity arises, to assist them in the right way. His steadfast principle in this regard is best expressed in his own words—"An ounce of practical sympathy is worth a pound of preaching." His earnest efforts in the cause of prison reform have been recognized by his selection for several years as chairman of the prison reform committee appointed by the Bishop of Niagara, while as representative of the diocese he gave important evidence before the prison reform commission appointed by the Ontario Government in 1890. Another monument to the noble character of Mr. Geoghegan's life work is the institution known as St. Peter's Home for Incurables, which was founded and organized entirely through his efforts. His belief in the necessity for such an institution was based on four years experience in visiting the city hospital and house of refuge. The former, he considers not a suitable place for patients who have passed the acute stage of disease, nor is the latter for those who are afflicted with incurable maladies. Having conceived the idea of establishing a "home for incurables," he applied to the city council for aid: but though his appeal was backed up by a petition signed by many of the clergy and a large number of leading citizens, it was refused. Nothing daunted, however, he went on with his project, and in Oct., 1890, he purchased the Springer homestead property for \$9,000, and the "home" was soon an accomplished fact. To a man in Mr. Geoghegan's position, the undertaking was no light one, and hence he deserves the more credit for his success. With him the lack of means was not an insurmountable obstacle, his inexhaustible energy and perseverance and the worthy object held in view answered every purpose. He collected from sympathizers in Hamilton and elsewhere about \$3,000, with which he paid a portion of the purchase money, the balance being devoted to furnishing and maintenance. The building is designed to accommodate twenty-five to thirty patients, and those are received irrespective of class or creed. The entire income consists of voluntary contributions, the receipts from paying patients, and the annual grant received from the Ontario Government, under the Act by which aid is given to the Toronto home for incurables, the only similar institution to St. Peter's in the province. Mr.

Geoghegan has demonstrated the necessity for the institution which he has established, and also the feasibility of maintaining it on the lines laid down by him. In the good which it is accomplishing, he has his reward. Outside of his chosen work, he takes but little interest in worldly affairs, his clerical duties and others of a kindred nature demanding almost his whole time and attention. By nature and disposition he is warm-hearted and generous, in manner he is eminently sociable and kind, and he is deservedly held in the highest esteem.

#### HON. JOHN DRYDEN, M.P.P.,

*Brooklin, Ont.*

THE gentleman whose name appears at the head of this sketch, and who now occupies the honorable position of a minister in the government of Ontario, has for many years held a leading place in connection with the progress and development of agriculture in this province. Hence the record of his life-work cannot fail to be of more than special interest, while it must be so in a general degree among the class with which he has, from his youth up, been so prominently identified. John Dryden was born in the township of Whitby, Ontario county, June 5th, 1840, his parents being the late James Dryden, and his wife Elizabeth, whose maiden name was Marsh. The former was a native of Sunderland, England, and the latter a Canadian. James came to Canada with his mother in 1820, being at that time only fourteen years of age, his father having been killed by a fall from his horse at Walsingham, Durham county, some time previously. The family settled in Whitby township, where Mrs. Dryden subsequently married William Paxton, father of the late Sheriff Paxton, for many years a prominent resident of Ontario county. James continued to reside with his mother and stepfather until he became of age, when he purchased land and began work for himself on lot 27, 2nd concession, Whitby township, then little more than a trackless forest. Mr. Dryden was married three times, his first wife being Abile Groat, by whom he had one child, who still survives. In 1832 he removed from lot 27 to lot 20, 7th concession, in the same township, where he purchased 200 acres, this forming the nucleus of the famous Maple Shade farm of 420 acres, now the homestead property of Hon. John Dryden. Some three years later, in 1835, he married Elizabeth, a daughter of the late Rev. Israel Marsh, a well-known minister of the Baptist Church (who died subsequently in Dorchester township, Middlesex county), and who had followed in the footsteps of his father, one of the pioneers