

of that excellent system, and for a number of years he has been a member of the Thorold Separate School Board. Like his brother, he is an active Reformer in politics. Both are members of the Roman Catholic Church, of whose institutions they are liberal supporters. In 1867, John married a niece of the late John Battle, of Thorold, by whom he has had seven children, of whom four (sons) are still living. In 1872, Thomas married Ellen, daughter of Andrew O'Connor, of Merriton, the result of their union being a family of six children—four sons and two daughters—all of whom are living. Mrs. Conlon died May 22nd, 1888, much regretted by a large circle of friends. The old lady—the mother—has for some years resided with her son Thomas, and is still hale and hearty at the advanced age of seventy-four.

ANDREW T. WOOD,

Hamilton, Ont.

ANDREW TREW WOOD, the well-known hardware merchant and manufacturer, of Hamilton, was born at Mountnorris, County of Armagh, Ireland, August 26th, 1826. His parents were David Wood, and his wife, Frances Bigham, whose maiden name was Trew. The former was of Scottish and the latter of English extraction, their ancestors having settled in Ireland about the year 1700. The subject of our sketch, who is the eldest of a family of eight children, in his early youth attended the public school in his native place, afterwards continuing his studies at Derrycughan, and Loughgilly schools, and acquiring a sound English and mathematical education. In 1844, at the age of eighteen, he came to America, landing in New York, in which state he remained two years. At the end of that period he removed to Toronto, where he entered the employment of the late James S. Ryan, hardware merchant. He continued with Mr. Ryan for over three years, during the latter part of the time managing the Hamilton branch of the business, and in 1848 he accepted a position with the then well-known wholesale and retail hardware firm of Wm Atkinson & Co. On the death of Mr. Atkinson in Nov., 1849, Mr. Wood purchased the retail business of the firm, and commenced business himself. Shortly afterwards he admitted as a partner the late Joel Carpenter, but the connection was dissolved in about a year, Mr. Wood joining the late Edward McGiverin in the saddlery hardware line, the firm being known as E. McGiverin & Co. This partnership was also, however, of short duration. In 1852, Mr. Wood bought out the wholesale hardware business of Benjamin Milner & Co., the head of which firm had formerly been connected

with that of Richard Juson & Co. He continued to carry on the business alone until 1859, in the meantime having moved into his present premises in 1856, when he formed a partnership with Mr. Matthew Leggat, thus establishing the widely known firm of Wood & Leggat. For thirty years the business was carried on under the above title, and an immense trade was done all over the Dominion, the firm always standing in the front rank in commercial circles throughout the country. In 1889 Mr. Leggat retired and the firm name was changed to Wood, Vallance & Co., the company consisting of Mr. Wood's eldest son, William A., and William and George Vallance. The business of his firm is still carried on with undiminished energy and success. In addition to the Hamilton establishment, the firm has a branch house at Winnipeg, started about eight years ago, and of which Mr. George D. Wood is the resident partner and manager. Referring to our subject's characteristics as a business man it may be said that during the past forty years he has been one of the most enterprising and hard-working chiefs of Canadian commerce. He is a man of unusual business energy, who seeks no rest for pleasure or recreation where duty, in the demands of business, calls for labour. He is personally master of his business, knowing the iron and steel trade from its minutest detail up. He is reputed to be a wealthy man, his wealth being the product of legitimate business as distinguished from speculation. In short, he is a merchant who limits his ventures to legitimate trade, and it is needless to remark that his firm has always been characterized by the highest probity, and that its credit is probably unsurpassed by that of any mercantile firm in the Dominion. Outside of business matters, Mr. Wood has always been a thoroughly representative citizen. Politically he is a Reformer, and at the general elections in January, 1874, he was chosen by his party as one of the candidates for the House of Commons, his colleague being Æmilus Irving, Q.C. At that time the trade question was one of the issues before the people, and Mr. Wood had no hesitation in declaring himself in favour of protection for revenue purposes, due regard being paid to the fostering of home manufacturing industries. In his address to the electors he said:—"The growing importance of the manufacturing interests of this country is such as to call from the government a careful remodelling of the tariff, so as to give such protection to our native industries as will enable them to compete successfully with the cheaper labour of foreign markets. When attending the annual meeting of the Dominion Board of Trade, held in Ottawa in January last, as a delegate and President of the Hamilton Board of Trade, I supported a