

in doing what he deems the right. The vindication of provincial rights in the matters of the boundary, the rivers and streams bills, and the license question, are services rendered by Oliver Mowat which will long be remembered by a grateful province. As leader of the Ontario government, in the House and out, Mr. Mowat's address and tactics are admirable. Clear-headed and logical in debate; cautious in committing himself, yet, when occasion demands, prompt in decision and firm in action; uniformly courteous and affable, yet ready and keen in retort, and often turning the tables on an opponent most effectively; keeping himself thoroughly informed on all important questions; exhibiting on all occasions a sound judgment, combined with a ready wit, he inspires his colleagues and followers with confidence, and generally holds at bay or discomfits his most eager assailants. In some of these respects, notably in the extent and fulness of his knowledge of the subjects under debate, and in the soundness and acumen of his opinion on juridical and jurisdictional questions, his record compares most favourably with that of his great antagonist, the late veteran leader of the Dominion government. To say that he may sometimes have made mistakes in judgment and policy, and that he has not uniformly steered clear of the dangerous reefs which abound in the streams of patronage, is but to admit that he is human and consequently fallible. Hon. Mr. Mowat has always taken a deep interest in social and religious questions. He is a member of the Presbyterian church, and was for many years president of the Evangelical Alliance. Like most men who have wrought earnestly and conscientiously for the public good in any sphere, his philanthropy and integrity are, no doubt, deep-based upon the firm foundation of religious principle. It has been sneeringly insinuated that he has claimed for himself the high honour of being a "Christian politician;" but it is unnecessary to say that the charge is without foundation. It seems to have originated in a perversion of a hypothetical allusion in one of his early addresses to what might be considered the duty of a Christian politician, in some specified case. To arrogate to himself the distinctive title was farthest from his thought, and the boast would be as repugnant to his good sense and taste as to the modesty for which he is distinguished. The honourable gentleman sits in the Ontario legislature for North Oxford, a constituency he has continuously represented since he became Premier and Attorney-General of the province. Even Mr. Mowat's opponents in the Chamber admit that his administration, for the long period now of twenty years, has been able, economical and patriotic. As an uncompromising Liberal, his

political views are broad, comprehensive and statesman-like. In private life, he is universally and deservedly esteemed.

[On the 24th of May, 1892, Her Majesty the Queen conferred the honour of knighthood on Hon. Mr. Mowat, and henceforth his title will be Sir Oliver Mowat, K.C.M.G.]

ALEXANDER H. LEITH,

Ancaster, Ont.

ALEXANDER HENRY LEITH, Barrister and Solicitor, was born at Bowland House, Selkirkshire, Scotland, March 7th, 1852. On both the paternal and the maternal side he is of good family. His father, George Gordon Brown Leith, second son of the late Major-General Sir George Leith, Bart., of the British army, was born at Armagh, in 1812, Sir George being assistant Adjutant-General of the British forces in Ireland at the time. He (the father of the present Mr. Leith) first came to Canada in 1836 and settled in the township of Binbrook, Wentworth county. During the stirring times of the Mackenzie rebellion he served as a captain of the Gore militia under Sir Allan McNab, and in 1842, on the death of Sir George, he returned to Scotland. Subsequently he married Eleanor, daughter of the late John Ferrier, a Writer to the Signet in Edinburgh, and niece of the celebrated John Wilson, professor of modern philosophy in the Edinburgh University, author of "Noctes Ambrosianae," and best known as the "Christopher North" of "Blackwood's Magazine." In 1854, Mr. Leith returned to Canada, and settled finally at The Hermitage, in Ancaster township, which he had purchased some time before, and which is still the family homestead. As a youth, Alexander H. obtained his education at the late Rev. J. G. D. Mackenzie's private grammar school, in Hamilton, after leaving which, in 1865, he proceeded to Halifax to join the Royal Navy. He passed out of the training-ship in December, 1866, and afterwards served successively in H. M. S's "Royal Alfred," "Squirrel," "Sea Lark," "Royal Adelaide," and "Northumberland." In March, 1871, he retired, at his own request, as sub-lieutenant, and returned home. Soon after he entered on the study of the law in the office of Cameron & Applebe, Toronto, and after having passed the usual examinations he was called to the bar and formed a partnership with J. N. Blake, under the name of Blake & Leith. A year later he removed to Bowmanville and went into partnership with R. R. Loscombe, the firm name being Loscombe and Leith. There he remained two years and a-half, when he was appointed by the Dominion