

Victoria foundry, Ottawa, and the other is the wife of C. W. Spencer, general superintendent of the C. P. railway, a young man of great ability and promise. Of the former, Edwin married Miss S. E. Williams, of Ottawa; Charles married Miss Anna Viele, of Rouse's Point, Mr. Rochester's birthplace; the youngest, Harry, is carving out his fortune in the Great West on the Pacific Slope. Mr. Rochester has been and is a man of splendid physique, and is still in the enjoyment of excellent health and unsurpassed mental faculties, his appearance giving no indication of his long and active life, but rather a promise of his long remaining one of the most prominent as well as one of the most worthy citizens of the metropolis of the Dominion. The strong points in his character are executive ability, capacity for business, perseverance and industry, and a thorough sense of the responsibilities imposed on him in the various positions he has occupied; and it has been mainly due to the conscientious manner in which he has performed his public and private duties that he has been enabled to retain the respect of the community among whom he has spent his life.

THOMAS BIRKETT,

Ottawa, Ont.

THE subject of this sketch occupies the honourable position of chief magistrate of the Dominion capital, and has long been recognized as one of the most enterprising and successful business men of his native city. He was born in Ottawa, Feb. 1st, 1844. His parents were Miles and Elizabeth (Wren) Birkett, both of them natives of Cockermonth, Cumberland county, England. They were married in the old country and came to Canada in 1838, settling in what is now the city of Ottawa. Mr. Birkett, Sr., was a merchant tailor by trade, and on coming to Canada at once went into business. In this he continued until 1848, when he was accidentally killed by being thrown from his horse. His family consisted of nine children, of whom His Worship, Mayor Birkett, was the seventh. Thomas Birkett was educated at the public and grammar schools until his thirteenth year, when he was apprenticed to the hardware trade with Thomas Isaac, whose place of business was in the part of the city known as Centretown. There he remained until 1866, when, at the age of twenty-two, he took up business for himself, locating at 24 Rideau-street. His venture, at first, was not on a large scale, for his capital was limited. But he was gifted with natural abilities of a high order and these, aided by the pluck and energy which have ever been strong features of his character, in time brought him success. In spite of the

opposition against which he had to contend, his business increased rapidly and ere long he distanced all competitors. In 1878 he erected his present extensive premises on the corner of Rideau and William-sts., and extending 203 feet north of George-st. The buildings are of stone and are very commodious, space being necessary for the housing of a stock constantly maintained to the value of \$70,000 to \$75,000. He imports all his supplies direct from the manufacturers in Great Britain and the United States, as well as in the Dominion; and he has now the most extensive hardware trade in the retail and jobbing lines between Montreal and Kingston, having travellers constantly on the road. Though actively engaged in business, Mr. Birkett has found time to devote a no little attention to public matters. He served as a member for St. George's ward on the public school board from 1867 to 1871, inclusive. In 1873 he was elected alderman for the same ward, and continued in the council till the end of 1878, when he retired. In 1891, yielding to repeated solicitations, he accepted nomination for the mayoralty and was elected by a large majority, polling nearly as many votes as his three opponents together. His election being protested, he was unseated on a technicality, but was immediately re-elected by acclamation. Mayor Birkett has taken a strong interest in the Lady Stanley Institute for Trained Nurses, which was erected at a cost of \$15,000, and was formally opened May 21, 1891. On the board of management he served, and on the building and finance committees from the commencement. He is also president of the advisory board at Ottawa, of the Dominion Building and Loan Association, having been nominated for that position by the board at Toronto in October, 1890. In May, 1891, he was elected a director of the association at Toronto. He has belonged to the Masonic fraternity for nearly twenty-six years, and has attained the 32nd degree in the A. & A. Scottish rite; he is also a member of the St. George's Society and of the Sons of England. In politics he is an out-and-out Conservative, and an active worker for his party. He was president of the St. George's ward association from 1873 to 1890, when he retired owing to pressure of business, a reason which has impelled him to decline the frequent solicitations of his friends that he should be a candidate for parliamentary honours. In religion he is a Methodist, a member of the congregation of the Dominion Methodist church, to the building fund of which beautiful structure it may be said he was one of the most liberal subscribers. On May 21st, 1871, Mr. Birkett married Melissa, a daughter of the late Thomas Gallagher, contractor, a well-known and highly esteemed citizen of Ottawa, and who was in the Dominion Civil Service as