

SIR ADAM WILSON, KNT.

family living is Mr. Geo. H. Wilson, accountant in the Bank of Montreal.

In January, 1834, he was articled to the law in the office of Baldwin and Sullivan. He was there a diligent student, and was called to the Bar in Trinity Term, 1839, remaining in the management of the office for Hon. Robert Baldwin until he went into partnership with that eminent man in January, 1840. This partnership continued until 1849 when it was dissolved, Mr. Baldwin retiring from the practice of the profession. He was appointed a Queen's Counsel in 1850. In the same year Mr. Wilson formed a partnership with Dr. Larratt W. Smith, and subsequently with Mr. John Hector, Q.C., which continued until 1856, when a partnership was formed with (now) Hon. Mr. Justice Patterson and Mr. James Beatty, Q.C.

Mr. Wilson, who now applied himself to Counsel business only, though his clients were many, found time for public affairs and took a lively interest in the politics of the day, being then allied with that party that was led by his partner and friend Mr. Baldwin. He took an intelligent and earnest interest in municipal affairs; and was, it may truly be said, the best municipal lawyer in Ontario, at a time when municipal administration was not as well understood as now.

In 1859 and 1860, he sat as Mayor for the city of Toronto, having been the first Mayor elected by the general vote. Mayor Wilson may also be said to have been the first practical municipal reformer Toronto ever had. He entered with zeal into all things pertaining to city interests, and met with the usual conflicts, misinterpretations and misrepresentations of those set upon reforming abuses. The people at large supported him throughout, and he was eminently successful. He consolidated the city by-laws, then in inde-

scribable confusion, and fully organized the Municipal machinery. He also took a marked interest in the police, and compiled for them a handy book of law on the "Office of Constable," which has been a standard book of reference ever since. He had the honour of receiving, as Mayor of the city, His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales in 1860, and everything so far as Toronto was concerned passed off satisfactorily.

In 1856 Mr. Wilson was appointed one of the commissioners for consolidating the statutes. To this he applied himself with his usual zeal and industry until the work was complete. Not content with municipal honours, he entered into the larger field of Canadian politics, and in 1860 was elected as member for the North Riding of York in the Parliament of Old Canada. He represented that constituency until his appointment to the Bench in 1863. During part of this period, in 1862, he held the office of Solicitor General and Executive Councillor in the John Sandfield Macdonald administration. Appointed in the first place to the Court of Queen's Bench, he only remained there a few months when he went to the Common Pleas, changing places with Mr. Justice Morrison. He afterwards went back to the Queen's Bench along with Hon. Chief Justice Sir Wm. Richards, at the time when Mr. Justice Hagarty became the Chief Justice of the Common Pleas. Thus for the second time in 1868 he took his seat in the latter court. He became Chief Justice of the Common Pleas in 1878, and of the Queen's Bench in 1884.

Always regarded as a sound and able lawyer, painstaking and industrious to a great degree, most fearless and conscientious in the discharge of his duties, as well in his judicial capacity as well as elsewhere, he was distinguished for his never failing courtesy to the Bar and