

their nearest neighbors were French—everything was strange; but through all difficulties they bore up bravely, and as time went on matters assumed a brighter aspect; and if at first there had been regrets at the change in life they had made, these speedily disappeared. When the Papineau Rebellion broke out, in 1837, William, then barely sixteen years old, volunteered with his elder brother, and together they joined the Loyalists under Major Campbell at a block house a few miles from their home. There they were attached to companies and for some time were drilled regularly every day. Finally the whole force, accompanied by a band of St. Regis Indians (Iroquois), was ordered to march out and attack the enemy, but this was not to be accomplished, for though they travelled many miles through rain and mud the enemy managed to keep out of their way, moving their camp as the loyalists approached. As soon as it was found that the immediate danger was past, the volunteers were allowed to disperse to their homes. Mr. Muir describes his experiences on this campaign as among the most severe he ever had to endure. In 1839, he decided on leaving home for the western lakes, where his brother Alex. was there located. In those days there were no railroads and few stage-coaches, and he was obliged to make the journey of over 100 miles to Ogdensburg on foot. There he took boat for Kingston, where he arrived next day and found a large portion of the city in ruins from the effects of a great conflagration the night before. Here he met his brother who took him on his boat and they proceeded up Lake Ontario. For a number of years thereafter he sailed on the lakes during the summer as captain, and spent the winters at his home. It was during one of these visits home he and his brother got out the frame for a covenanting church, the first of the kind built in that locality. The ministers (until one was permanently established), always stopped with the family, who were ever ready to advance the cause of religion; the strict religious life begun in Scotland, was continued in Canada. In 1845, William took a trip to Scotland for his health, and the following spring he returned completely restored. About the year 1851 he formed a partnership with his brother Alex., who had a floating dry-dock at Port Dalhousie. In connection with this enterprise they met with strong opposition, and that they finally succeeded was entirely due to their own efforts. Mr. Muir tells many interesting stories of the discouraging way in which they were treated in those days by people in the vicinity of St. Catharines and Port Dalhousie. The firm at one time consisted of the five brothers, Alexander, William, Bryce, David and Archibald.

The last two removed to the States some years ago, and in 1890 Bryce retired from the business, and resides on the farm in Grantham township. During the time William had been in the firm the floating dry-dock has given place to a permanent one, which dates from 1861, and around it they built a ship-yard. During the forty years they have been in business they have built and run some thirteen vessels. In addition to their vessel trade, a large timber business, to the extent of about a million dollars, was carried on in Ontario and the states of Michigan and Ohio. The firm sent several cargoes of their own timber in their vessels to Britain, and on one occasion one of their vessels took 24,000 bushels of corn from Chicago to Ireland, at 57 cents per bushel freight, and £100 for calling at Cork for orders. In 1859, Mr. Muir bought the place which he now lives in, and made it the permanent family residence. He has always been a quiet, unassuming man, taking but little interest in matters outside of business. In a society way he belongs to the Masonic fraternity; in politics, he is a Reformer, and in religion, is a Presbyterian. He has been an elder in the Presbyterian church at Port Dalhousie for the past ten or twelve years. Mr. Muir married twice. His first wife was Esther Ann Craine, a descendant of a family in the Isle of Man, by whom he had two children, both of whom are living. In 1865 he married Christina Cavers, a descendant of a Roxburghshire (Scotland) family, by whom he has four sons and four daughters, all of whom are living. The eldest, William C., is a clever and well-educated young man, filling the position of clerk and bookkeeper for the firm. Mr. Muir is a man of the strictest integrity, and is one of the most highly respected men in the community in which he lives.

EDWARD MITCHELL,

Hamilton, Ont.

EDWARD MITCHELL, who, now for upwards of a quarter of a century, has been among the well-known and highly popular citizens of Hamilton, was born at Ballater, Aberdeenshire, Scotland, Sept. 11, 1840, his parents being Alexander and Isabella (Skeaff) Mitchell. In 1848, his father, who belonged to the medical profession, and carried on a drug business in the old country, yielding to the solicitations of his two elder sons, emigrated to Canada with his family, and on his arrival purchased a homestead farm, and settled in Ancaster township, county of Wentworth. A couple of years later he removed to Galt, and went into business as a general storekeeper, dealing chiefly in dry goods, groceries and drugs. Shortly after this