

MEN OF MARK.

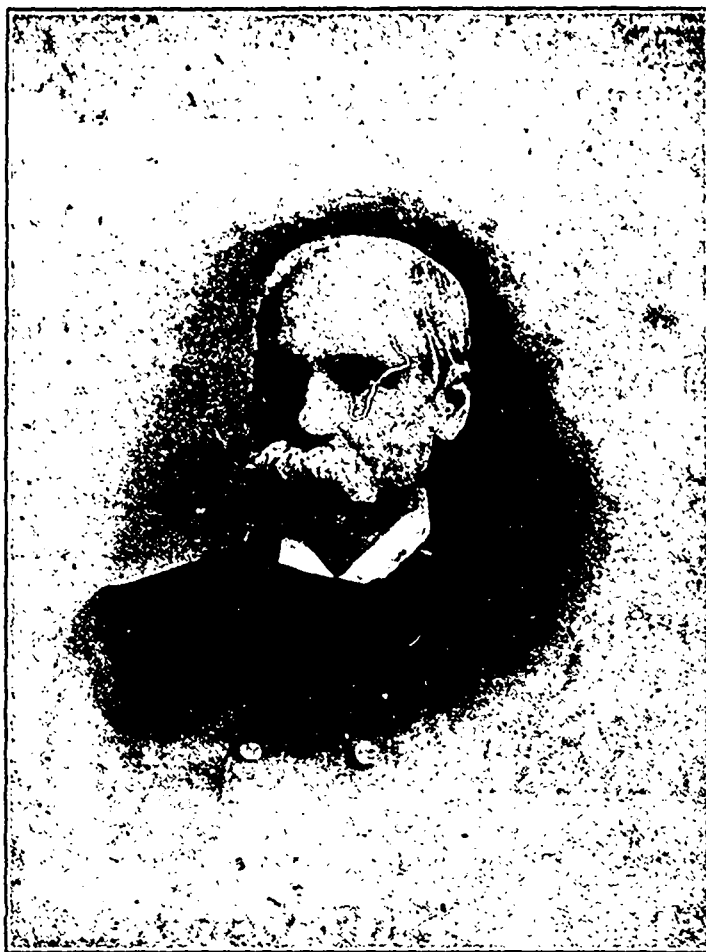
MR. WARRING KENNEDY,
(Of Samson, Kennedy & Co.)

"We judge ourselves by what we feel capable of doing,
while others judge us by what we have already done."
LONGFELLOW.

Bacon says: "The mould of a man's fortune is in his own hands." A practical and eminent illustration of this truism can be seen in Mr. Warring Kennedy, sole surviving partner of the wholesale house of Samson, Kennedy & Co., corner of Scott & Colborne Streets, Toronto. Mr. Kennedy is a native of County Down, Ireland, and commenced his business career as an apprentice in a dry goods store in the town of Killea. At the expiration of his apprenticeship he went to Belfast, where he lived for several years occupying various positions of trust. Like many other young men of push and enterprise he decided to try his fortune in Canada. He arrived in Toronto in 1857, during one of the greatest commercial crises that the country has passed through. Nothing daunted he accepted a subordinate position, but his natural force of character soon drew marked attention to him and his services were eagerly sought after. His advancement was rapid, so much so that he was drawing the yearly salary of four thousand dollars when in 1869 he formed a partnership with Mr. A. G. Samson and Mr. Alexander Gemmel, both since deceased, under the name of Samson, Kennedy & Gemmel. The three partners were all connected with the wholesale establishment of John Macdonald & Co. The firm commenced business in the warehouse corner of Scott & Colborne Streets, and a few years ago on the retirement of Mr. Gemmel, the firm name was changed to Samson, Kennedy & Co., under which it will continue.

Mr. Kennedy has, by persistent labor and application, won commercial and other honors of the worthiest description. He has always been an indefatigable worker not only in business but in helping along anything that enlisted his sympathy and approbation. He is a man of wonderful vitality and energy, earnest and persevering in his zeal for the good of his fellows, and untiring in his labors for the betterment of their condition both morally and physically. He took a leading part in the organization of the Commercial Travelers' Association of Canada in 1871, being one of the charter members, and when the first annual meeting was held the following year he was honored by being elected President, and is now an honorary director. His interest in the Association has never flagged, and when the Commercial Travelers' Mutual Benefit Society was formed in 1881 he was appointed Treasurer, which office he still holds. He

also takes a warm interest in the Commercial Travelers' Circle, which has for its chief object the promotion of temperance among the fraternity. As an evidence of his popularity he was elected alderman in 1871, polling the largest vote on record, up to that time, in favor of any of the city fathers. In 1877 he was asked to run for Mayor, and although he was unsuccessful in the contest he polled a very large vote. He was several times urged to enter the political field, but declined, much to the chagrin and disappointment of his friends, as he is a ready, fluent, and forcible speaker. His fellow-countrymen also shewed their appreciation of his merits by electing him President of the Irish Protestant Benevolent Society in 1872. Mr. Kennedy is now Chairman of the Board of the Toronto General Burying Grounds Trust; senior honorary secretary of the Upper Canada Bible Society; a member of the High School Board, and of the Board of Management of the House of Industry. He is also a member of the Executive Council of the Mutual Reserve Fund Life Association and Chairman of the Canadian Board, and takes a keen personal interest in its affairs as he does in everything with which he is connected.



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(Of Samson, Kennedy & Co.)

Mr. Kennedy's devotion and loyalty to the cause of Methodism are known far and near. As local preacher, class leader, trustee, and Sabbath School Superintendent he earned for himself the esteem and admiration of his co-religionists. He has been on several Conference Committees, and a delegate from the Toronto Conference to the General Conference where he always took a prominent part in the debates. At the Toronto Conference in June last he had the unique honor conferred upon him of being elected Secretary, which is the first instance of a layman occupying that position in the history of the Methodist church of this continent. He was also elected a delegate to the Second Ecumenical Council of the Methodism of the world which met at Washington, D. C., this month. Mr. Kennedy frequently occupies the pulpits of some of the leading churches, and holds a foremost place as an expounder of the Gospel truths. He is always ready for service in any branch of the church work at all times, and the charitable organizations of the city can always rely on him as a warm friend and willing helper. Mr. Kennedy can claim the unique distinction of being a successful business man, preacher, and public man. He is deservedly popular with all classes of his fellow-citizens. Under his skillful management the business of the firm has assumed immense proportions, and the house now ranks as amongst the foremost in the Dominion. The extensive warehouse is situated in the centre of the wholesale area. It consists of five floors having a frontage on Scott Street of sixty feet, with a depth on Colborne Street of one hundred and twenty-three feet. The basement is reserved for Canadian cottons and woollens; the first floor for staple goods with the shipping room in the rear, and the offices in front; the second floor for fancy goods; third floor, dress goods, and fourth floor, hosiery, gloves and gents' furnishings.