

He has also been a member of the Masonic Fraternity for the past twenty-two years, and belongs to the Hamilton Lodge of Perfection, and Hamilton Sovereign Chapter of Rose Croix. In politics he is a Conservative. With respect to his religious convictions, his parents, we may state, belonged to the Church of England, but the subject of this memoir joined the Methodist church thirty years ago, and for the last fifteen years held the position of treasurer and recording steward for Zion Tabernacle, Hamilton. He, in 1855, married Mary Ann, daughter of J. B. Bagwell, of Mimico, near Toronto, and in the same year removed to Hamilton and commenced piano manufacturing at the same stand that he occupies at the present time. The piano business was an occupation according to Mr. Thomas' heart, for since his infancy he had been connected with it. [For a sketch of his brother, see page 261 of this volume.] Referring in a lengthy article to the Thomas establishment at Hamilton, a local paper said: "The Thomas piano, from the outset was destined as a piano to be not merely of fine glossy exterior or made for cheap use, but an instrument in which the purchaser might invest and feel satisfied that, with fair treatment, it would last a family for a lifetime, and always be prized as a valuable possession. From the first days of public exhibitions these instruments have been subjected to the test of impartial comparison with pianos of all other makers, and it seems to have been the policy of the house to invite criticism and impartial comment from all sources, so that their instruments might be improved and perfected by this method, and the retention of as nearly as possible the same staff of workmen."

Cotton, W. H., Lieutenant-Colonel, Commandant of the Royal School of Artillery, Kingston, was born in Montreal, on the 7th January, 1848. He is the eldest son of the late Henry Cotton, of the civil service of Canada. Henry Cotton was the son of William Miles Cotton, of England, and was born in St. Petersburg, Russia, in 1817, coming to Canada in 1836, and serving in the civil service for upwards of forty years. The late Mr. Cotton married in 1847, Eleanor, daughter of David Ross, Q.C., of Montreal, who now survives him. David Ross, who died in Montreal, in 1837, aged sixty-seven, married Jane Davidson, daughter of Judge Davidson, of Montreal. Arthur Davidson, afterwards judge, was clerk of the Court of Appeals in the Province of Quebec, in 1778, during the period that His Excellency Sir F. Haldimand, was governor-

general of that province. John Ross, an officer in Wolfe's army at the taking of Quebec, was the great great-grandfather of Lt.-Col. W. H. Cotton, the subject of this sketch. W. H. Cotton was educated at Toronto and Quebec, receiving a general English education, embracing the study of classics. At the time of the organization of the schools of artillery, and the permanent corps connected therewith, Col. Cotton was then (1871) a captain in the Ottawa Garrison Artillery, having been transferred from the Quebec Garrison Artillery. He was the first captain of A Battery Regt. C. A., and in 1882 succeeded to his present appointment on the promotion of Lieut.-Colonel Irwin. He twice visited Wimbledon in connection with the Wimbledon team, in the years 1871 and 1875. Col. Cotton is a staunch member of the Church of England. He married in April, 1876, Jessie, daughter of the late John Penner, of Montreal, and grand daughter of the late Chas. Penner, of Lachine, who afterwards resided in Kingston. He has four children living, two sons and two daughters.

Smithers, C. F., Montreal, President of the Bank of Montreal, was born in London, England, on the 25th November, 1822. The head of the largest banking institution on this continent, and one of the most important financial corporations in the world, his career ought to be of special interest to the young man beginning life, who would learn the secret of success. And yet, as is generally the case with able, energetic, clear-sighted men of business, who have attained the highest rank in their profession, the route by which Mr. Smithers reached his actual goal of honour and influence was, in one sense, extremely uneventful. Though there is no man in the Dominion—not even the prime minister himself—whose utterances are more anxiously awaited and more eagerly received than his; though his words are more fateful to the mercantile community than was the oracle of Delphi to the ancient Greeks; though over the broad Dominion, and beyond its borders, his forecasts cause deep searchings of heart and give rise to "obstinate questionings" in financial and commercial circles, the story of his rise to power, so far-reaching, may be told in a few brief sentences. His life may be divided into three periods. Of these the first was spent in his native land, and it was during those twenty-five years that Mr. Smithers' character acquired the solidity and tone which stood him so well in his later career. We are often reminded—on the