

a representative of St. George's ward, and in 1881, '82 and '83 for St. Andrew's ward. He was chairman of the court of revision in 1881, and of the executive committee in 1883. He first sat in the local legislature as member for West Toronto in 1883, and was re-elected by large majorities in 1887 and 1890. As a politician, Mr. Clarke achieved distinction, and won a high place for himself in the Ontario legislature. He was an effective speaker, and had on repeated occasions ably supported his leader, Mr. Meredith, in the active duties of legislation, and did good service to his party on the floor of the House. He paid special attention to the financial condition of the province, and for the last few years the responsible duty of replying to the treasurer's statement was assigned to him. He took a prominent part in opposing the movement in favour of commercial union of Canada with the United States, feeling that such a union would tend to an undesirable political alliance with the Republic, and retard the industrial life and development of Canada. On this subject Mr. Clarke wrote some valuable articles in support of his views, in reply to Mr. Erastus Wiman. On other subjects of moment in the domain of politics and legislation, the deceased wrote and spoke much, and his views always commanded public attention. Mr. Clarke was an Orangeman, having joined the order in 1849. In 1887 he travelled extensively in Europe, and on his return he delivered a most interesting lecture, entitled "Impressions of a Tour in Europe." He belonged to the Methodist church. In May, 1856, he married Anne, daughter of the late Thomas Kennedy, of Montreal. Mrs. Clarke and two daughters survive him, his only son having died a few years ago at the age of 14.

JOHN W. GAGE,

Bartonville, Ont.

JOHN WESLEY GAGE, who was born in the township of Barton, near the city of Hamilton, March 22, 1848, is a worthy representative of a family whose name has been almost a household word in that district since the foundation of the province. He is a descendant of one of the earliest pioneers in the region. In 1770, Andrew Gage emigrated from the North of Ireland to Canada, and soon after settled on the land now occupied by the Boys' Home, just east of the city. He had a property of some three hundred acres, and this formed the basis of the Gage family fortune. Of the six sons and three daughters of Andrew Gage, the only survivor is John, now residing in Barton, just outside the city of Hamilton, and whose son is the subject of our sketch. John

Gage was born on the old homestead May 24, 1819, and consequently is now in his seventy-third year. He married Hannah Cline, a member of a German family, who came from Pennsylvania early in the century, and for many years played a prominent part in the carving out and building up of the country in the region in which they settled. Of this family only two members are now living—Thomas, who resides in Hamilton, and Ransom, who resides in Barrie. In his youth John W. Gage attended the public school in Bartonville, where he received a good practical education. At the age of nineteen he went into farming in the township of Saltfleet, and on a somewhat extensive scale, for he cultivated no less than 360 acres of land. Farming he carried on successfully for four years, applying to his work that energy and sound judgment which have characterized him through life. It is worth recording that during this period he grew the largest crop of corn ever harvested on a single farm in Canada in any one year—fifty acres which averaged 110 bushels to the acre. After retiring from farming, he kept the post office, and conducted a general store business for seventeen years in Bartonville, retiring in 1886. During this period, however, Mr. Gage gave attention to other matters besides business. In agricultural affairs he took a leading part, and for many years he was connected with the old Barton and Glanford Agricultural Society, until a separation took place, when he was elected president of the Barton Society, a position to which he was again elected in 1891. He was also for a number of years a director of the Hamilton Great Central Fair Association. In connection with municipal politics he, for some time, took a prominent part. He was deputy-reeve of Barton during the years 1886 and 1887, and in the two following years he was reeve. In 1889 he was chosen warden of the county of Wentworth, an office which he filled with ability and dignity. At the close of 1889, Mr. Gage retired voluntarily from the reeveship. Politically, he has always been a Conservative, and a hard worker in Parliamentary contests, as well as a highly influential man in the councils of his party. In 1890 he declined nomination for the Ontario legislature in South Wentworth, but it is not improbable that in the near future his fellow-electors will place him in a higher position than he has yet occupied. Mr. Gage is a Freemason, and also a member of the Knights of Pythias, and of the Knights of the Maccabees. In religion, he is a Protestant, being brought up in the Methodist faith, of which body he is an adherent. On January 1, 1868, he married Elisa, daughter of the late Coplin Stinson (who was killed at Albany, N.Y., some twenty-eight years ago), and hence a member of the Stinson family, one