

JAMES CROIL, son of a West India merchant, was born in Glasgow, 4th September, 1821; educated at the New Academy, Edinburgh; the Grange School, Sunderland, and Glasgow University. After an apprenticeship of two years to farming in East Lothian, then as now the garden of Scotland, he sailed for New York in the emigrant ship "Clyde," and reached his destination after a fine voyage of forty days, to find the thermometer indicating 106° in the shade.

Thence to Montreal, occupied four days by steamer and stage, and the seventeen miles of railway from St. John's on Lake Champlain to Laprairie at that time was the only passenger railway in Canada, opened for traffic in 1837. That was in 1841, when he came to visit his brother William, who some years previously had purchased Stacey Island, a beautiful and fertile tract of land of 2,000 acres, situated in the St. Lawrence near the head of the Longue Sault rapids, where he resided for twenty years, administering his estate with patriarchal simplicity and caring for his Scottish tenantry with parental affection.

His second voyage in 1844 occupied forty-two days, and was relieved from monotony by a mutiny of the crew in midocean, which continued until the pilot took charge of the ship off Sandy Hook. Such of the cabin passengers as chose joined the cook, the carpenter and the ship's officers to shorten sail or shake out a reef, as might be needed. Among those who volunteered their services were the subject of this sketch and his life-long friend, Robert Graham, who was so long associated with the Montreal Star.

In 1845 Mr. Croil purchased the old

Crysler Farm in the township of Williamsburg, to which he gave the name of Archerfield, in remembrance of the beautiful property of that name in East Lothian, dear to him in the days of his apprenticeship. The farm occupied about 500 acres of land fronting on the St. Lawrence, nearly one-half of which was as yet primeval forest. Here Mr. Croil soon learned that farming in Canada was very different from that in East Lothian, and that he must serve a second apprenticeship, but it did not take long to convince him that his lot had been cast in a pleasant place, and that the inhabitants of Dundas county, taken as a whole, were as fine a people as one could wish to meet, and that he had much to learn from his exemplary neighbors. They were nearly all of German lineage, members and descendants of the United Empire Loyalists who were located here by the British Government at the close of the war in 1783 and by religion were nearly all Lutherans. Frugal and industrious in their habits, they were scrupulously honest in their transactions, every man's word being considered as good as his bond. Among them were such names as the following: Bouck, Brouse, Broeffle, Carman, Casselman, Cook, Coons, Crysler, Frymire, Doran, Empey, Haines, Hayunga, Hickey, Loucks, Merkle, Shaver, Snyder, Schwerdfeger, Weagant, Weager, Whittaker and Willard.

In those days they had neither reaping nor thrashing machines, and it goes without saying that the women had no sewing machines. The grain was reaped by scythe, sickle or cradle. The thrashing floor in the great old barn resembled that of Ornan, the Jebusite, three thous-