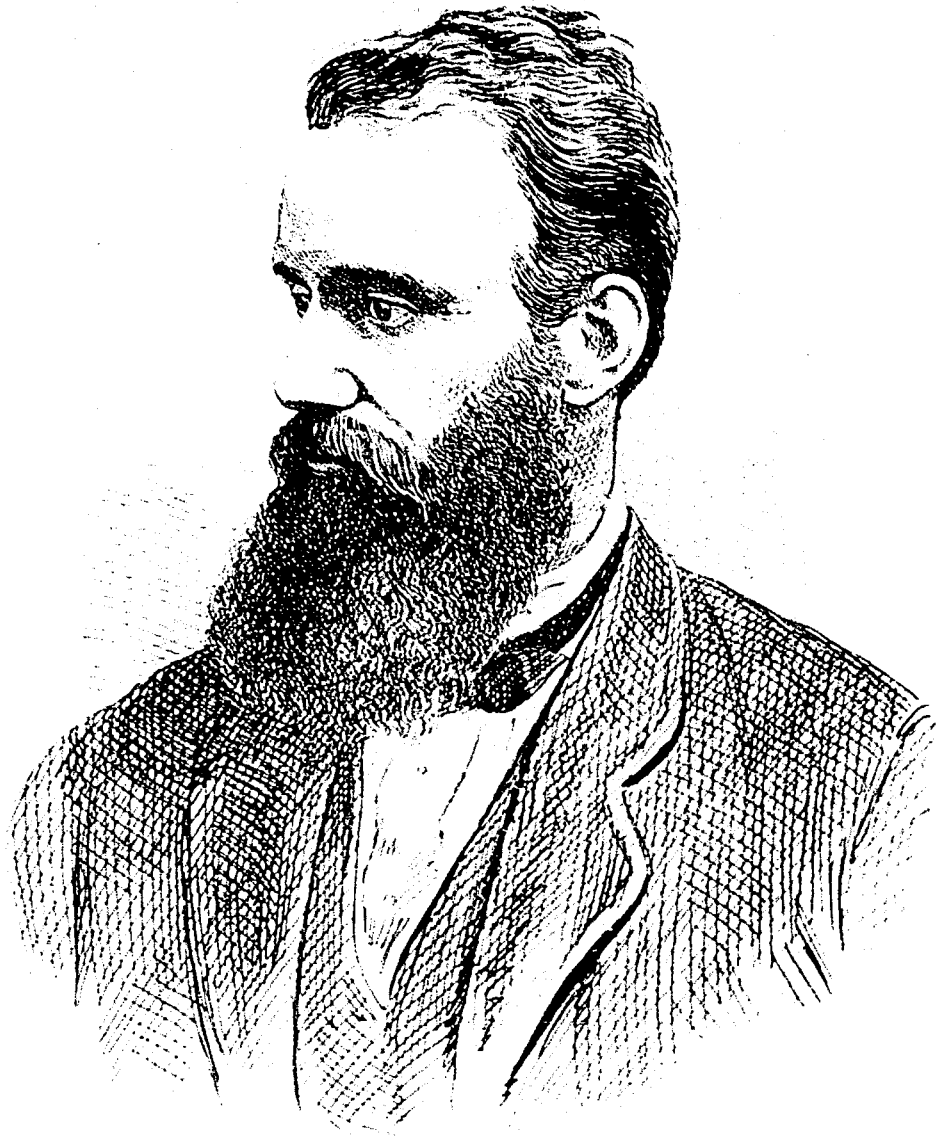


No. 110.—H. B. WITTON, ESQ., M. P.

OUR CANADIAN PORTRAIT GALLERY.

We are indebted to the *Witness* of this city for the following very full account of the career of Mr. Witton, recently returned with Mr. Chisholm for Hamilton. Mr. Witton is the first *bona fide* workingman ever sent up to Parliament and his course will therefore be watched with more than usual interest by all parties, and especially by the class of which he is a model representative.

Henry Buckingham Witton, M.P. for Hamilton, was born at the small village of South Lopham, Norfolk, England, October 21st, 1831, and is now forty-one years of age. His birth-place is in the beautiful valley of the Waveny, the delightful scenery of which has been so admirably described by the poet Bloomfield, in his "Farmer's Boy." Near South Lopham is the town of Diss, famed of old as the residence of Skelton, whom Erasmus named "the glory and the light of British Literature." At Diss Mr. Witton received such education, very imperfect and rudimentary, as his parents, who were poor, could with much difficulty and many sacrifices of their own comfort, afford to give him. Here also he was apprenticed to the trade of coachmaking, but in consequence of the discontinuance of this business by his employer, he was thrown on his own resources at the early age of seventeen. His subsequent employments were in Thetford, London and Manchester. In the latter city there has always existed an active public spirit, which is never without its effect on young ingenious minds with a capacity for work in the service of the race. There Mr. Witton was attracted into fields of usefulness, and became a worker in the cause of education and other much-needed reforms, many of which have now happily been accomplished. In 1853 he emigrated to the United States, and for three years remained a resident of Troy, N.Y. In 1856 he removed to Hamilton, Canada, where he has resided ever since and for nearly the whole period has been in the service of the Great Western Railway. For some years past he has been foreman in the paintshop of that Com-



H. B. WITTON, M. P.

FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY ECKESON.

pany, and has performed his work faithfully and well. On his first appointment the Company profited largely by economies introduced by him—not the pitiable economies from which workmen suffer, but the wise ones of paying for the best article and the best man all that they are worth, and making the most out of them. During all the years of his working life he has been gradually improving his originally scanty education. After coming to Hamilton he acquired French and Latin, and applied himself with enthusiasm to the study of practical geology, astronomy and microscopy, to the latter of which especially he has for several years devoted most of his leisure time. In January of this year he read an able paper before the Hamilton Association, on the "Lower Forms of Life found in Burlington Bay," which was printed in full in the *Hamilton Spectator*. Mr. Witton has the happy faculty of divesting science of dryness and investing it with interest for the most unscientific of his friends. His style is easy and pleasing. He is the possessor of a telescope, an expensive microscope, and one of the most extensive and valuable scientific libraries. His reading, however, has not been exclusively scientific, but varied and catholic, and his knowledge of general literature, history, politics and political economy, makes him an agreeable companion for those who care for neither the mysteries of the stars nor the marvels of the ponds. His life has been essentially a quiet one, spent in work and study. He has in a larger degree than most men commanded the respect and confidence of his fellow-workmen, and many votes were cast for him and his ticket during the late election on grounds purely personal to himself. He is moderate and courteous in speech, and has passed through a severe election contest with more of goodwill towards him on both sides than perhaps ever before fell to the lot of any candidate under similar circumstances. His residence in the States led him to revise many of his earlier opinions on general politics and political economy, which, in a greater or less degree, is not an unusual result with English residents there; the



LAYING OF THE CORNER STONE OF THE M. Y. M. C. A. BUILDING: THE CEREMONY