

sands, and well may it be so, for his reputation as a lawyer, a politician, and a man is one to be envied. In religion, Mr. Meredith is a member of the Church of England. In 1862, he married Mary, daughter of Marcus J. Holmes, Esq., of London, by whom he has had four children, three of whom are living.

THOS. H. MCKENZIE,

*Hamilton, Ont.*

ON the 23rd day of August, 1830,—upwards of sixty years ago,—the subject of this sketch, after a sea voyage of fifty-two days from Leith to Quebec, and a further journey of twelve days duration by batteaux from Cornwall to Prescott, thence by the old steamer "Queenston," arrived in what was then the little village of Hamilton, which had at the time a population of only 700 souls. Thomas Howard McKenzie was born Aug. 12th, 1811, at Fort George, Inverness-shire, Scotland. His parents, James and Margaret (Barbour) McKenzie, were also natives of Scotland. Thomas, who is now in his eighty-first year, was really born in the army. His father was a soldier in the royal artillery, and fought in numerous engagements in India under the Iron Duke, then Col. Arthur Wellesley, receiving such wounds as disabled him for further service. As a youth, Mr. McKenzie received a good academic education, including classics, mathematics and book-keeping. He had just turned nineteen years when he reached Hamilton. The first employment he obtained was as shipping clerk in the warehouse of the late Abel Land, with whom he remained some four or five months. This he gave up to accept a position as clerk for the old-time firm of Colin Ferrie & Co., then carrying the largest general stock of goods in Upper Canada, and with whom he spent eight years. During the period he was with Ferrie & Co., he established for the firm a branch store in Preston, which he managed successfully until 1839, when he commenced business for himself in the same place. This, however, he sold out in the following year and removed to Dundas, where he conducted a large general business, including dry goods, groceries, and hardware, in three separate stores. For many years he carried on one of the most extensive wholesale and retail business enterprises in Western Canada, and, until the Great Western was built, he did a larger trade than was done by any house in Hamilton. In 1856, he sold out his Dundas business, and shortly afterwards established himself as a commission merchant in Hamilton, an enterprise which he continued for a lengthy period, dealing very largely in wool. Dundas, in those days, was a very brisk shipping port, a fleet of schooners

being constantly engaged in loading timber, staves and produce for Quebec and Halifax. There were three propellers from Quebec also engaged loading produce for those ports. A large schooner, built at Dundas, and owned by the late Jas. Coleman, used to make two trips annually to Quebec and Halifax, bearing the produce of the western country to those ports, while a large number of teams found constant employment conveying lumber, timber, shingles and other products for shipment to different parts of the country, and to Oswego, in the United States. In 1877, he set out on a business trip to South Africa, and on his return in the following year, he was appointed by the Dominion Government inspector of weights and measures for the Hamilton division, a position he still holds. Though largely engaged for many years in business, Mr. McKenzie was a leading and useful man in public life. For four years he served as councillor, and for three years more he filled the office of mayor. As a defender of his country he was not lacking, and his military ardour and alacrity made it plain that the good old British stock from which he sprang had not degenerated in him. When Sir John Colborne, then Governor-General of Canada, saw the troubles looming up which afterwards culminated in the Mackenzie rebellion, he called for volunteers—rifles, cavalry and artillery—and on the enrolment on June 4th, 1831,—the King's birthday,—Thos. H. McKenzie joined the rifles as a non-commissioned officer. With this branch of the service he remained connected until transferred to the captaincy of the Ninth Gore regiment. At the outbreak of the rebellion, he turned out with the militia under the late Sir Allan MacNab, and was in the Gallow's Hill engagement, afterwards serving at Chippewa and Niagara. While stationed at Chippewa, he saw Notman's battery from Dundas fire the first gun at the rebels on Navy Island, and was also witness of the burning "Caroline" passing down the rapids and over the falls, after being cut out and fired by the loyalist forces. On March 5th, 1838, he was in the engagement at Point Pelee, fighting on the ice with the thermometer 10 degrees below zero, and on which occasion the rebels, whom Mr. McKenzie describes as "the dirtiest lot of blackguards" he ever saw, were totally routed. From the Ninth Gore he was transferred to organize the Fourth Wentworth regiment, of which he was appointed major, the late Dr. Hamilton being lieutenant-colonel. On the decease of the latter, Mr. McKenzie was promoted to the command of the regiment, and subsequently, after the long period of fifty-eight years service, he was permitted to retire, retaining his rank. In politics, Mr. McKenzie was always a pronounced Conservative, and for many years continued to be an active supporter