

he still resides, and enjoys a large and lucrative practice. Dr. Widdifield joined the Queen's Own Rifles during college days, and afterwards entered the School of Military Instruction, in Toronto, where he received a second-class certificate in 1866. He re-entered the same in 1868, under Col. Lindsay Farrington, commandant, and received a first-class certificate, and in the same year, entered the Toronto School of Gunnery, under Colonel, after Major-General, Anderson, as commandant, obtaining therefrom a first-class certificate. However, he had taken no active part in military matters until the rebellion of 1885, when he offered his services to the government, and also offered to raise a battalion in North York. To show that the offer was a *bona fide* one, he organized a company in a few hours of some fifty men, but the offer was declined. In 1872, Mr. Widdifield was appointed coroner for the County of York, which office he resigned in 1874, upon accepting the nomination for parliament. In 1879, he was appointed a justice of the peace for the county. In 1875, he contested the North Riding of York, in the Reform interest, against Erastus Jackson, of Newmarket, defeating him by the large majority of 489 votes; and was re-elected in 1879, defeating Edward Murphy, of Newmarket, by 509 votes. He was again elected, in 1883, defeating C. C. Robinson, son of the Lieutenant-Governor John B. Robinson, of Toronto, by a majority of 854 votes. During his first session in the legislature, he moved the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne, and acted as ministerial whip from 1876 to 1878, when he resigned the position, and since that time has been chairman of the standing committee on standing orders. In 1874, he was nominated for the House of Commons, but declined, owing to his professional duties, and was again nominated for North York, in 1882, accepting the nomination; but on this occasion, he was "gerrymandered" out of the riding. During the doctor's parliamentary career, he has taken a very active part in the business of the House, and has successfully carried through a number of bills, including the Ontario Pharmacy Act, in 1884; while for several years he has urged upon the government the necessity of removing obstructions from the mouth of the Severn river, thereby lowering the waters of Lake Simcoe, and thus draining a large tract of land. Largely as a result of those representations, the work has been partially accomplished. Dr. Widdifield has likewise advocated

manhood suffrage. He is a member of the Masonic craft, Tuscan lodge, No. 99, Newmarket; of the Doric chapter, No. 60, of the same place, and a Knight Templar. He was master of the lodge, and first principal of the chapter for several years, and is at the present time district deputy grand master of the Toronto district, which includes the counties of York, Peel, part of Ontario, and the City of Toronto. He is also a member of the Grand Lodge of the Ancient Order of United Workmen, and for the past five years, has been provincial medical examiner of the order, as well as of several other societies. In politics, he is a Liberal, and is honorary president of the Newmarket Young Men's Reform Club, and a member of the executive committee of the Ontario Reform Association. In religion, he believes in orthodox Christianity, according to others the right to hold their own views. He attends the Church of England. Dr. Widdifield is the very embodiment of energy and industry, he is a ready and forcible debator; is well informed upon political questions; and, altogether, a valuable member of the Assembly.

Thomas, Charles Lewis, Hamilton, was born in Thornbury, Gloucestershire, England, on the 4th of May, 1828. He is a son of John Morgan and Mary (Lewis) Thomas, there being thirteen children, Charles Lewis being the oldest. Of these five were sons and eight daughters, and three of the sons are still living and all engaged in the music business, viz.: J. J. Thomas, who is connected with subject in the piano trade, and E. G. Thomas, organ manufacturer of Woodstock, Ontario. Four of the daughters are still living. John Morgan Thomas emigrated to Canada, from Bristol, England, in 1832, settling in Montreal. He was afterwards of the pioneer piano manufacturers of Canada, and to him is due the honour of being the inventor of the full metallic frame, now so universally used by all the piano manufacturers, he having taken out the patent, now in Charles Lewis Thomas's possession, forty-five years ago. Mr. Thomas removed to Toronto in 1839, and carried on piano manufacturing there till his death in 1875. Charles Lewis Thomas was educated in Toronto, receiving an ordinary English education. He is a man of much public spirit, and has been an alderman for the City of Hamilton for the last two years. He was a member of the Odd Fellows, Manchester Unity, joining the same in Toronto in 1848, and filling all the offices in succession, up to the past grand.