

the interests of his own business and the city in which he lives, his name in commercial circles is a tower of strength and is one with which the word fail has no association.

#### JOHN L. BLAIKIE.

John L. Blaikie, financier, whose strict conformity to a high standard of business ethics has won for him an unassailable reputation in financial circles, where he has figured prominently for almost half a century, was born a few miles from Melrose, Roxburghshire, Scotland, May 9th, 1823. Educated partly at Melrose and at Edinburgh, he put aside his text-books and entered business life in an office in Edinburgh and subsequently at London, England, where he remained for four years, leaving there for Glasgow, Scotland, where he resided twelve years, during which period he became intimately acquainted with many gentlemen of wealth and prominence in various departments of commercial life. In 1855 he formed a partnership with an intimate friend of his, Mr. Wm. Alexander, who had for some years been a resident of Toronto, Canada, the firm being Blaikie & Alexander. Mr. Blaikie then removed to Toronto which has been his home ever since. The firm of Blaikie & Alexander, financial agents and stock brokers conducted a very large and successful business in lending money on mortgage security for many years and at a time when money was very scarce and rates of interest very high. Both Mr. Blaikie and Mr. Alexander were pioneer residents of York county, and Toronto was but a small city when they began business here. Mr. Alexander has lived in California for many years, but Mr. Blaikie retains his residence in Toronto, where he has now lived for almost a half century, witnessing the growth and development of the city from a small and inconsequential town into one of distinct commercial, industrial and financial prominence. There have been eras of financial depression as well as of prosperity, and the firm of Blaikie & Alexander were operating here at the time of the memorable money stringency when interest was paid at whatever rate the financial agent demanded. The firm, however, pursued a policy strictly in keeping with the principles of honor and honesty, which had been instilled into them in youth. Borrowers were