

is also a Son of Temperance, and an exemplary man in all his habits. In 1864, he married Harriet Blair, daughter of Samuel James Blair, of Truro, and they have eight children.

Persons who best know Colonel Blair speak of him as a man who does not put his hand to the plough and then look back. He has indomitable pluck and perseverance, knowing no such words as "halt" or "fail" in a laudable undertaking. No province or country can have too many of this class of agriculturists and law-makers.

HON. MATHER B. DES BRISAY,

BRIDGEWATER, N.S.

MATHER BYLES DES BRISAY, judge of the county courts of district number two, comprising the counties of Lunenburg, Queens, and Shelburne, N.S., dates his birth at Chester, county of Lunenburg, N.S., on the 19th of March, 1828. He is of Huguenot descent, the family having gone from France to England, the pioneer in the Dominion of Canada being Thomas Des Brisay, who was sent out as acting Lieutenant-Governor of Prince Edward, then St. John's island, in place of the Governor, who had retired to England. Thomas Des Brisay, grandfather of the judge, was a captain in the Royal Artillery, in the garrison at Halifax, and adjutant of the battalion, his father, General Des Brisay, being at the same time commanding officer there. The father of the judge was Thomas Belcher Des Brisay, M.D., who died at Dartmouth, N.S., in 1869. His mother, who is still living, was Lucretia Woodward, daughter of Jesse Woodward, formerly a West India merchant at Halifax, where she now resides. The paternal grandmother of Judge Des Brisay was Sarah Byles, a daughter of the Rev. Dr. Mather Byles, a staunch Loyalist in Boston, Mass., during the American revolution; and the judge has the portrait, in oil painting, of that witty old divine, and also the portraits of his father and grandfather, both named Mather, and both eminent ministers of the Church of England. He has also the portrait in oils of the celebrated Cotton Mather.

Our subject was educated in grammar schools at Dartmouth and Halifax; studied law at the latter place with the present judges, George A. Blanchard and Alexander James, and was called to the bar in April, 1851. He practised in Halifax several years, at Chester, his native town, for seven years, and, in 1865, removed to Bridgewater, and here practised until his elevation to the bench, in August, 1876.

Judge Des Brisay was secretary to the first Provincial Industrial and Agricultural Exhibition, held at Halifax, in 1854; was appointed one of the commissioners for the consolidation of the statutes of Nova Scotia, in 1876, and was immigrant agent for the province from 1872 until he was elected speaker. While practising at the bar, Judge Des Brisay was singularly reluctant to involve his client in litigation, and generally succeeded in getting his case settled peaceably on principles of justice and equity. The same disposition to discourage litigation, and especially litigation depending on technicalities in verement of justice, has distinguished his administration of justice on the bench. His decisions are largely influenced by equitable principles, and as his judgment is sound, and his moral principles strong, he is popular as a judge. Very few of his judgments have been appealed from, and they have rarely been appealed from successfully.