

## HENRY E. CLARKE, M.P.P.,

*Toronto, Ont.*

THE late representative for West Toronto in the Ontario Legislature was a fine example of a self-made and thoroughly upright man—one who in his lifetime earned the confidence and good-will of all who knew him, and in his startlingly sudden death, which occurred on the afternoon of Friday, 25th of March, 1892, while addressing the House, won for his memory the citizen's coveted meed of honour and affection. Since 1883, Henry Edward Clarke has been a well-known and prominent member of the local legislature, whose public career in and out of parliament has commended itself, not only to his immediate constituents, but to the community at large, as that of a worthy and useful citizen, a kind and just employer of labour, and an industrious and strictly honourable business man. So good a life as was his, though shortened by devotion to the public interest, may well be content to reach its close abruptly at the post of duty. For him, happily, there was no lingering illness, and no premature decay of mental or physical powers. If not of full ripeness of years, there was ripeness of another sort, the preparedness of a good man to meet his end. When the call came, the late member for West Toronto was speaking to a measure on the floor of the chamber, and, though his instant death was a shock to everyone in the House, to the deceased, we may be sure, it was as a gentle summons to pass to a higher and better rest. Henry Edward Clarke was born at Three Rivers, Quebec, on the 20th of March, 1829. He was the son of Henry Clarke and Ellen Armstrong, both of whom came from Midhill, county of Fermanagh, Ireland. He received his tuition, which comprised a sound and practical English education, from public teachers and private instructors. When but fifteen years old, he left home to push his fortune in the world. Commerce drew him into its busy and active field. At the age of eighteen he had learned the trade of saddle and trunk-making, and found employment in one of the largest shops in Montreal. Here he remained until 1848, when he removed to Ottawa, then Bytown. Steady, reliable and energetic, he became foreman of the largest saddlery shop in the town when barely twenty years of age. At Ottawa he remained for about four years, working diligently, and perfecting himself in his trade. Returning to Montreal in 1853, he was sent to Toronto to open a branch store for R. Dean & Co. Although he had little capital at his command, he had industry and perseverance. Ten months after his arrival here, he resolved to carry on business for himself, and, buying out the business of Dean & Co., he start-

ed out on what has proved a most successful career. His first place of business was on Yonge-street, and for a time after moving to the present King-street premises, the manufacturing was also carried on in the same building. The business grew very rapidly under his able management, and in 1873 a large factory was erected on King-street west, near Tecumseth-street, and the King-street premises were henceforth used as a warehouse. In a short time it was found necessary to enlarge the factory, and considerable additions have since been built. Mr. Clarke found himself at the head of one of the largest trunk manufacturing establishments in America, and was recognized as one of the most solid and enterprising of Toronto's business men. The present place of business on King-street west is one of the most beautiful and spacious trunk stores of America. Few employers in Canada took such a lively and generous interest in the welfare of the employees as did Mr. Clarke. He always treated his men with the utmost consideration and liberality. With Mr. Clarke originated the idea of establishing a reading and recreation room for employees. About nine or ten years ago he erected a comfortable building for this purpose, with newspapers, magazines and a useful library. In many other ways he exhibited his kindness and generosity towards his men. When a few years ago his employees proposed to start an assembly of the Knights of Labour, Mr. Clarke heartily endorsed and encouraged the movement. In return for his constant kindness, Mr. Clarke enjoyed the good-will and respect of every workman in his establishment. He was evidently a believer in the benefits and just results of co-operation, for when it was decided to conduct the business as a joint stock company, the foremen who had worked for him faithfully for many years were given an interest in the business. Mr. Langmuir, who commenced to work for Mr. Clarke when a boy, was in 1873 admitted as a partner in the business, and has always had charge of the manufacturing department, which is now known as the Langmuir Manufacturing Company (Ltd). Mr. Clarke looked after the financial part of the business, but since the formation of the joint stock company, he acted in an advisory capacity only. He, however, retained his office over the King-street store, where he frequently enjoyed sociable calls from friends and Conservatives from all over the province. Although an active man in his own business, Mr. Clarke still found time to devote to public affairs. He possessed an active and practical mind, read widely, and kept himself well-posted on all the leading questions of the day, and particularly those which came under the purview of politics. In 1879, he sat in the city council as