

in the township of Zorra, now West Zorra, county of Oxford. There he taught school three or four years; then settled in Woodstock; sold goods twelve years for W. C. McLeod, general dealer, and subsequently was in the dry goods business for himself for eight years, when he sold out. Since that time he has speculated a little now and then, but being in comfortable circumstances, is inclined to moderation in his labors.

Many years ago Mr. Oliver held the offices of school trustee, councilman and reeve, and was warden in 1866. In the same year he was elected to parliament, to fill a vacancy caused by the death of Hope Mackenzie, brother of the late premier, and was re-elected at the general elections in 1867, 1872, 1874, and 1878. His constituency is strongly Reform, and backs him up at each election by more than the full vote of his political confrères.

The religious tenets of Mr. Oliver are Presbyterian, he having long been connected with that church. He married Miss M. C. Clark, of East Oxford, on the 29th of September, 1857, and they have one son and two daughters.

JAMES COOPER,

TORONTO.

ONE of the leading manufacturers in the Dominion—a self-made man in the fullest sense of the term—a man of the people, and one held in the highest esteem by those who know him, is the subject of this sketch, senior member of the firm of Messrs. Cooper and Smith, wholesale boot and shoe manufacturers. Mr. Cooper is a native of Gainsboro, Lincolnshire, England, where he was born in 1823, the thirteenth of a family of fifteen children of whom twelve are still living.

He received but a limited education, such as was attainable forty years ago in the mother country, by children of people in ordinary circumstances, and at an early age was apprenticed to learn the shoemaking trade. Not satisfied with home prospects, he, in 1847, emigrated to Canada, and is the only one of the family who ever crossed the Atlantic with the single exception of a younger brother who came on a visit a few years ago. When he landed in this country his worldly possessions were only sufficient to meet his immediate wants, but he was endowed with a wonderful amount of energy, courage, and perseverance, and these traits of character, added to his knowledge of the shoemaking business, laid the foundation of his success as one of the foremost business men of Canada.

After working for a short time in Quebec he removed to Toronto, where his home has since been. For several years after his arrival in Toronto, he worked at his trade as a journeyman until having by close industry accumulated sufficient capital he was enabled to engage in the retail business. But this occupation not being suited to his active temperament he, in 1860,