

the council two or three terms, and subsequently filling the office of second and first deputy reeve. In 1878, after a warm contest, he was elected mayor, and did so well the first year, and became so popular, that he was re-elected by acclamation, and is still holding the office, making a very efficient chief magistrate. He is also President of the Mechanics' Institute, an office which he has held for seven consecutive years. He was the first President of the Woodstock Board of Trade, and is thoroughly identified with all the interests of the town.

Mr. Parker is a Liberal in politics, a Reformer from principle, being in every sense a progressive man. He evidently believes that the "world moves," and that man ought not to do less. He is a Master Mason, but we cannot learn that he has been very active in the order.

June 1, 1859, Miss Annie Hood, daughter of Jabez Hood, Esq., of Newcastle-on-Tyne, and sister of John D. Hood, already mentioned, was married to Mr. Parker. Their family consists of two daughters, twins, Annie Louisa and Jessie Eleanor.

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## JOHN MERCER;

### CHATHAM.

JOHN MERCER, one of the sheriffs longest in office in the Province of Ontario, is a descendant of a very ancient English family, whose progenitors went to England from Normandy with William the Conqueror, and settled near Hastings, county of Sussex; members of the family still holding property there.

Our subject was born in the city of London, May 16, 1816, his father being Robert Mercer, a timber merchant. The maiden name of his mother was Sarah Hathaway Treacher. He was educated at a private school in Kent, where Lord Beaconsfield was once a pupil; in 1833 accompanied the family to Canada, they settling on a farm at Amherstburgh. In those days emigration was much more of a task than it is now. The family were thirteen weeks on the Atlantic Ocean, nearly two days on the Hudson river, six days on the Erie canal, and two days on Lake Erie. Twenty-seven years afterwards the mother of our subject visited England, and was just as many days in making the whole trip, as she was weeks in 1833, in crossing the ocean.

In 1835 Mr. Mercer and family, twelve in all, went to Windsor. Our subject spent two years in Philadelphia, Pa., returned to Windsor; became postmaster there about 1840—the first officer of the kind in the place, being deputy collector of customs at the same time; was deputy sheriff of the Western District\* including Essex, Kent, and Lambton counties, from 1840 to

\* The sheriff at that time was George Wade Foott, from the city of Cork, Ireland, and at one time, sheriff of that city. He emigrated to Canada about 1836; became sheriff of the Western District in 1840, and held the office until 1848. He resides at Thornbury four miles below Chatham, a beautiful country seat; and in 1875 he and his wife had their golden wedding. Mrs. Foott was a daughter of Sir Anthony Perrier, of Cork. Mr. F. keeps an "open house" all the year round, and dispenses hospitality with a munificence becoming a prince.