

hours, and the remarkable success which has attended his writings, won for himself a prominent position among the *litterateurs* of Canada. He is a recognized contributor to the following periodicals:—*The Week* and *Canadian Methodist Magazine*, of Toronto; the *Popular Science Monthly*, *Magazine of American History*, *Continent* and *Our Youth*, of New York; *Wide Awake* and *Outing*, of Boston; *Lippincott's* and *Sunday School Times*, of Philadelphia; *Current* and *Literary Life*, of Chicago; *Cosmopolitan*, of Rochester, N. Y., and others of less note. In September, 1885, he won the prize offered by *Literary Life*, of Chicago, for the best epitome of a famous story or poem, his subject being "The Scarlet Letter," and in December of the same year the prize offered by the *Halifax Critic* for the best Christmas story. He has always been connected with the Methodist church of Canada. Considering the extent of Mr. Oxley's official duties, one marvels at his industry and capacity, when a survey of his literary achievements is made. As a writer, Mr. Oxley reveals an active and almost boundless imagination, and he goes direct to the heart of his subject. His love for nature is warm and true; and it is not strange that his descriptive work is exquisite and vivid. His style is swift, clear and direct, and while the touch is light and dainty, force is never absent from it. Mr. Oxley's range is extremely wide;—he is capable of producing off-hand a vivid, sunny story for young folks; a piece of dramatic fiction, an historical essay, or a running commentary upon current political topics. His brain seems never to be at rest, and important subjects, which have escaped the minds of others, are constantly suggesting themselves. Of each one of such suggestions he promptly makes a note, and when time is on his hands, he sits down and gives the thought development. His outdoor work has the perfume of clover fields and pine forests; and when he touches the inner world, his work is true to the heart of man. We predict a very brilliant career in the domain of letters for this gifted aspirant. Mr. Oxley married on June 10th, 1880, Mary Morrow, eldest daughter of James B. Morrow, of the firm of S. Cunard & Co., Halifax, and granddaughter of the Rev. Matthew Richey, D.D., the renowned Methodist pulpit orator.

Widdifield, J. Henry, Newmarket, Ontario, M.D., M.R.C.S. England, L.R.C.P. Edinburgh, M.P.P. for North York, was born in the township of Whitchurch, Onta-

rio, at the old family homestead "Maple Grove Farm," in the County of York. He is a son of Charles Ellis and Angeline (Hughs) Widdifield, daughter of Joseph Hughs, who was originally of Welsh descent. Mr. Hughs was born in Pennsylvania, but moved to Canada, and settled in North York. The family, during the McKenzie rebellion was identified with the Liberal party. Charles Ellis Widdifield was a son of Henry Widdifield, a U. E. loyalist, of New Jersey. He was of English descent, and came to Canada, preferring to live under the British flag, and settled on the homestead farm, Maple Grove, in the year 1801. He had a family of four children, the father of the subject of this sketch being the only son. The family was in sympathy with McKenzie's cause, although not taking an active part in the rebellion. During Robert Baldwin's campaigns in North York, he always made Maple Grove farm his home, being a warm personal friend of Mr. Widdifield. Henry Widdifield, the grandfather, died in 1869, and Charles E. Widdifield died in 1873, both at the homestead. C. E. Widdifield had a family of four children, the subject of this sketch being the second eldest. Maple Grove farm, the place of his birth, is situated in the township of Whitchurch, being lots 32 and 33 of the 3rd concession of that township, and it still remains in the possession of James Edward Widdifield, the third youngest of the family. J. Henry Widdifield, the subject of this sketch, and brother of William C. Widdifield, B.A., barrister-at-law, of Newmarket, received a sound and careful education, finishing his studies at the Newmarket High school. At the age of twenty, he concluded to study medicine, and, in 1865, entered the Victoria University, where, for two years, he was a private pupil of the late Hon. Dr. Rolph. He remained here until he graduated M.D., in 1869. After graduating, he resolved to prosecute his studies in Europe, and in the same year left for England, entering the hospitals of London, and afterwards of Edinburgh. During one session, he attended lectures in the St. Thomas Medical and Surgical College, duly graduating, and being admitted to the membership of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, and the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh. In the fall of 1870, he again returned to Canada, and was admitted to the membership of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario, and immediately commenced practice in Newmarket, where