

BRIDGETOWN AND VICINITY.

AN HISTORICAL SKETCH.

The earliest settlement of Bridgetown, of which any record exists, appears to have covered that tract of land having for its centre the historic Bloody Creek brook, the district west of this stream being called *Sandy Manuel*, probably a corruption of Saint Emanuel; and the other portion extending as far eastward as the farm of the late Abner Morse, bearing the name of *Robichauville*, doubtless having been first settled by families bearing the appellation of Robichau. The lands referred to were settled probably in the early part of the latter half of the 17th century—1660-1680, and within as late a period as the first half of the present century, evidences of this settlement still exist in the remnants of orchards, dykes, roads and cellars.

At about the same date as the settlement of this tract other small hamlets were formed, one on the north or Bridgetown side of the

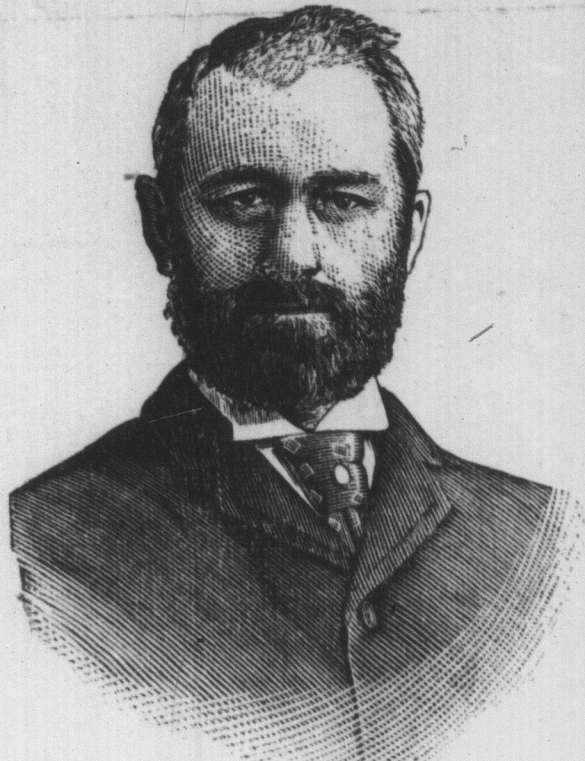
depths to escape captivity, the torch was applied to the hundreds of habitations which then occupied the lands within a radius of three miles from the present village, which, by the way was, at that time an alder swamp—a fit cover for the hare and the woodcock.

From their expulsion in 1755 their vacated lands, orchards and dykes were left without ownership. The cattle, sheep and other animals which they had left behind them perished for want of food and housing during the winter then at hand, and nearly five years were to elapse before other dwellers were to arrive and take possession. The township of Granville, of which Bridgetown is the chief town, was granted *en bloc* to a large number of proprietors in 1759, one of the conditions of the grant being that not less than forty of them should settle here with their families as early as June in 1760. From one of these grantees the lot on which the town was long afterward partly built was obtained by the late Captain John Crosskill, during the last decade of the past century, who continued to be the proprietor of

became the second M. P. P. for the township of Granville in the general assembly.

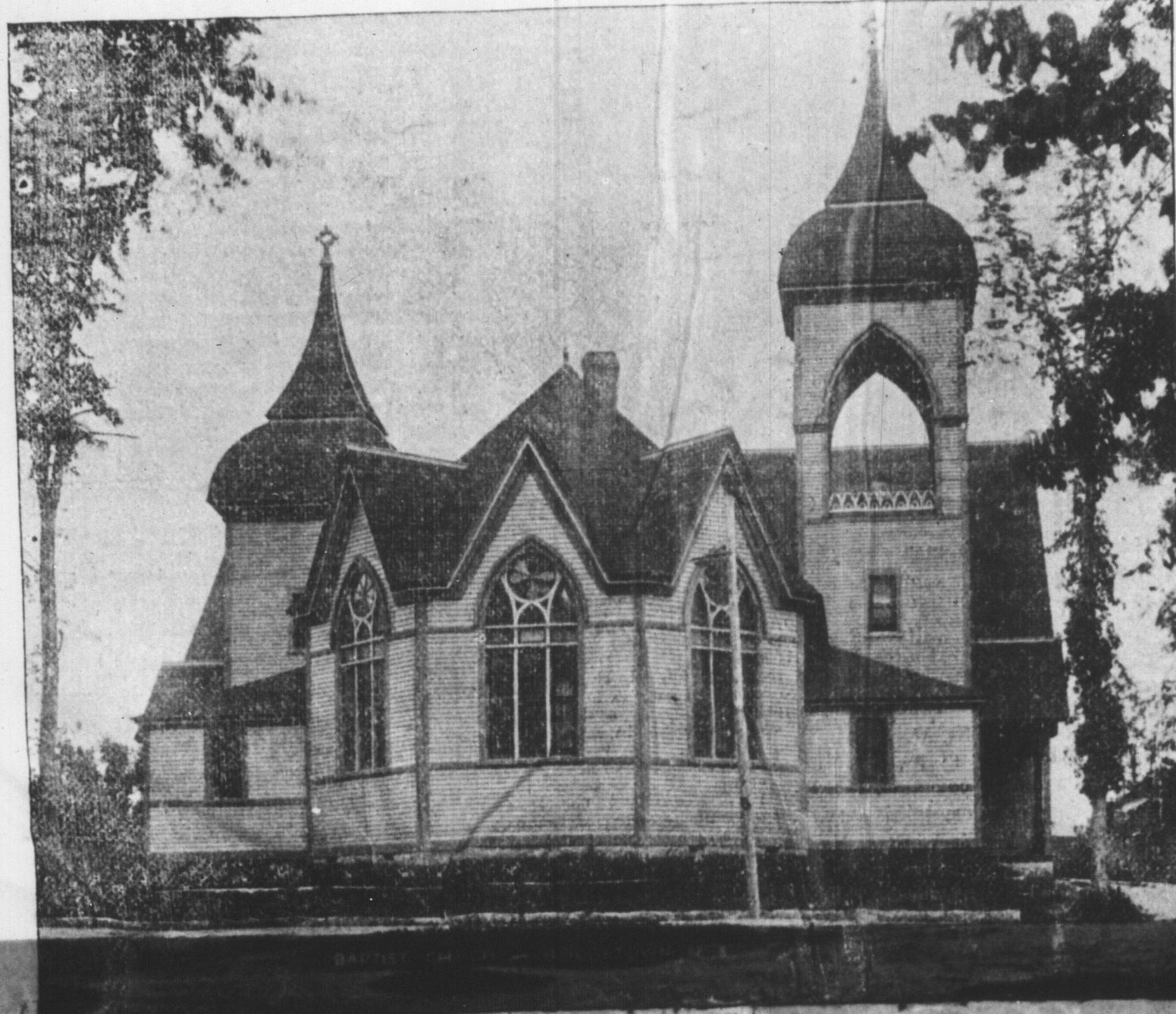
About the time of the arrival of Mr. Hicks came another young man, a native of Connecticut, by the name of Peter Pineo. He soon made himself owner of several lots, including those on which Bridgetown has since been built. He erected the first dwelling house known to exist in the town site. It was constructed of clay, mud, stones and wooden rods, and was familiarly known as the "Mud House." It was long kept as an Inn, the only one at Hicks' Ferry, and stood on the lot now occupied by the residence of Mr. Charles Parker. Its last use was that of a school-house. Pineo was a farmer, merchant, ship-builder, lumberer and Justice of the Peace; in fact, was the leading man of the county. He lost his life while on a trip to the West Indies in a brig of his own build, loaded with lumber and other products.

The Crosskill and Gidney houses were next to Pineo's "Mud House" in order of age. The former of these occupied the site of the present dwelling of T. D. Ruggles, and the



HON. J. W. LONGLEY, M.A., M.P.P.

HON. J. W. LONGLEY was born at Paradise, Annapolis County, Jan'y 4th, 1849. Educated at Acadia College; graduated B.A. June, 1871. Began the study of the law that year. Completed law studies at Osgoode Hall, Toronto, and admitted to the bar Sept., 1875. Began practice as member of the firm of High & Longley, afterwards MacCoy & Longley. Elected to parliament June 20th, 1882; appointed commissioner for revising statutes in the same year. Appointed commissioner for framing the Judicature Act with Sir John Thompson, Judge Johnston, and Otto S. Weeks, Q.C., in 1883. Sworn a member of the Executive Council, July, 1884; appointed Attorney-General, May, 1885. Re-elected to Parliament in June, 1886. Appointed delegate to banquet of Boston Merchant's Association in Boston, Dec., 1887. Re-elected a member of Parliament, May, 1890. Appointed Q. C., 1890. Was banqueted at Toronto, Aug., 1890; spoke at banquet before New York Board of Trade, January, 1891, and Chamber of Commerce, Louisville, Kentucky, Feb'y., 1891. Appointed Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, London, 1893. Re-elected to Parliament, March, 1891. Author of Act for Incorporating Joint Stock Companies by letters patent; Act for Abolishing Imprisonment for Debt; Towns Incorporation Act; Act respecting Trusts and Trustees; County Courts Consolidation Act; act for taking a plebiscite on the subject of prohibition, and other public measures.



river, a little to the eastward of the site of the present town, and another a little farther up the river, adjoining the Wilmot township line. To the west of the town also small hamlets existed, so that the present site of Bridgetown may be said to have been the nucleus around which, in every direction, clustered the hamlets and villages of the original French habitants of two centuries ago, whence

"Columns of pale blue smoke, like clouds of incense ascending,  
Rose from a hundred hearths, the homes of peace and contentment."

Save the little oasis to which we have referred, all the surface of the valley and its encompassing hills were still covered with "forest primeval." These primitive settlers cultivated small patches around their rude dwellings, made gardens and planted orchards. They fished the streams and trapped the fur-bearing animals of the forests, and rivers, and lakes, and held extensive traffic with the aboriginal natives. Their habits

were inexpensive,—their manners and customs simple: their condition was one of repose and stagnation rather than of action and progress. Such were the people who occupied and to some extent cultivated the lands which form the outskirts of what is now named Bridgetown, and who 1755 were to be expatriated because they would not submit to take an unqualified oath of allegiance to the sovereign, in exchange for the security in person and property which he had extended to them ever since the conquest of the province in 1710.

Their obstinacy, whether justifiable or otherwise, ended in their ruin. The fatal decree was issued ordering their banishment from the land and the burning of their thatch-covered homes and barns, and when too late to avoid the consequences they were compelled to witness the carrying out of the stern purposes of the government to which was left no other course. At a given signal, after these dwellers in the vale had been made prisoners, or fled to the neighboring forest

span the river. This structure was renovated and repaired from time to time, for a period of nearly forty years, when a new covered bridge was constructed, as it at present exists. The locus of the English Ferry, and likely that of the French also, was near the site of the present bridge, and was known as *Hicks' Ferry*, from John Hicks, late of Rhode Island or Connecticut, one of the grantees of the township of Falmouth, who, however, soon after settled in this county and

it until the year 1822, when he ran out that portion of the town plot which is on the same lot. Captain Crosskill had been previously employed in the public service, having commanded the war vessel *Earl of Moira* for a time. On retiring from the service he first settled in Halifax, where he resided for some years, but afterwards, about the time named, he removed to this county where he continued until his death, in 1825. It is said that Capt. Crosskill built the first vessel constructed at Bridgetown.

From near the close of the century a ferry was used for the transfer of man and beast from this township to that on the opposite side of the river. It was noted than probable that a similar ferry had been made use of by their French predecessors which connected Robichauville with the hamlet known to have existed on this side, and which was probably but an overflow, or offshoot from that parent village. This was the only mode of communication existing for years, until in the year 1800 a bridge was constructed to

latter still exists under the roof of what is now known as the residence of Mr. James DeWitt. Another old house then stood on the site of the Presbyterian Church, which may have been next in age to the "Mud House." It was in this old house that Mr. Harris, of Harris and Dodge, first carriage builders of the town, lived on his coming hither about 1825. It is probable that the Harry Crosskill house was built before 1822. It stood on the spot where Rice the photographer's new residence stands. From 1822 to 1832 there was a boom in building in the town. During that decade the following domiciles were constructed: 1, the Piper house, which was built by the late Silas Piper, M. D., and now owned by T. A. Foster. 2, the Thorne house, built by the late Stephen S. Thorne, M. P. P., now owned by the heirs of the late Jacob Foster. 3, the Dodge dwelling, built by the late Enoch Dodge, still owned and occupied by one of his sons. 4, the Foster or Quirk hotel, built by the late Ezra F. Foster, for inn purposes, to which it was devoted for more than 60 years, being the lineal descendant of the "Mud House Tavern" of Hicks' Ferry, but now, renovated and remodelled, occupied as a grocery store by Shaw & Co. 5, the three-storied Crosskill house which once stood near the site now occupied by the Presbyterian church. 6, the Jessie Oakes domicile, which covered the spot now occupied by the electric light factory. 7, the Clem Petit house, which stood where T. A. Foster's shop now stands. 8, the Nathan Randall residence, now occupied by Abner Foster. 9,

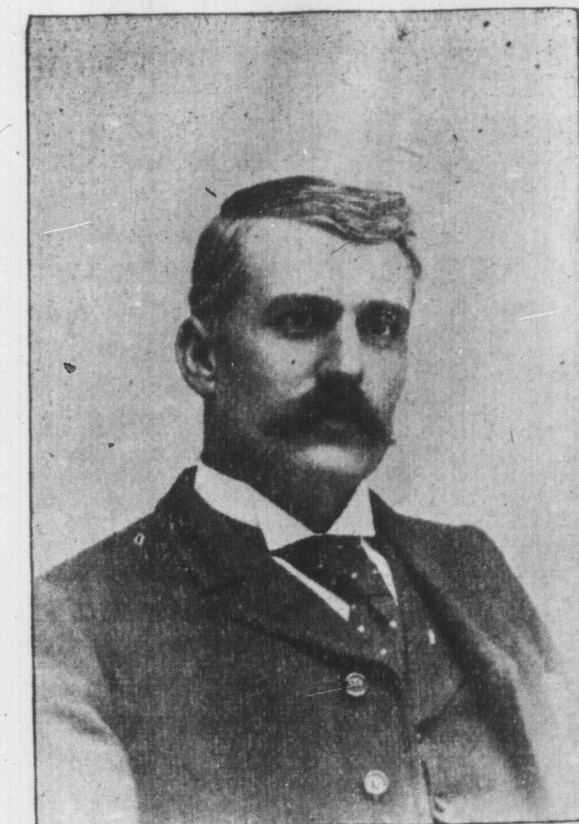
the dwelling on the opposite corner, owned by Capt. Raymond. 10, 11, the two Clark houses on the opposite side of Water street. 12, the Aaron Eaton house, now the Revere House. 13, the Edward Eaton house, which stood where now stands the building in which the offices of T. D. Ruggles & Sons and the Bank of Nova Scotia are to be found. Besides these were some others not here enumerated, and the next decade (1832-1842) witnessed the erection of an augmented number



A VIEW OF MAIN STREET, MIDDLETON, NEAR THE CORNER.

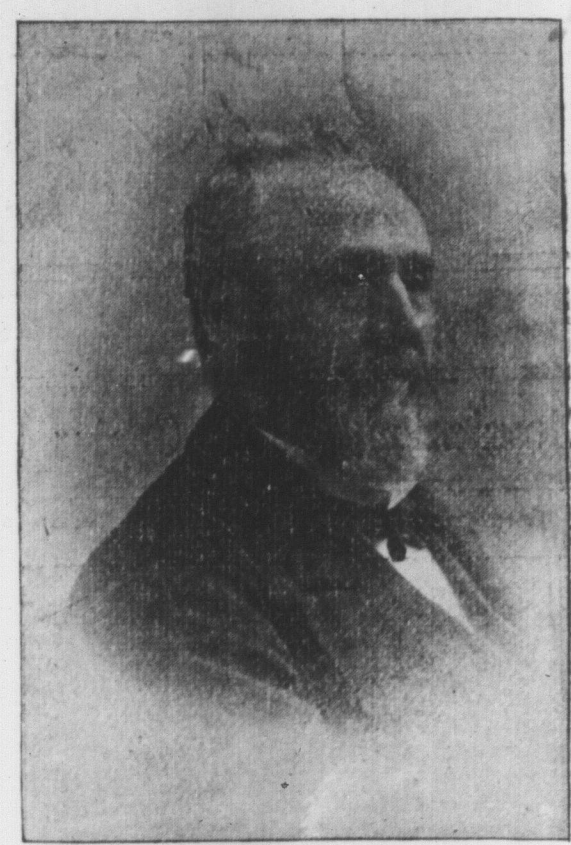
JOHN LOCKETT.

JOHN LOCKETT, Merchant, of Bridgetown, was born at St. George, N. B., Nov. 22nd, 1844. Educated in the public schools of his native village. Came to Bridgetown in 1868 and established himself in business, which he has since carried on. As a merchant Mr. Lockett is enterprising and progressive, dealing only in the best in his line of goods, and aiming at all times to keep fully abreast of the times. Is strictly attentive to business and honorable in his dealings, and as a result has built up a very large and widely extended trade. Is also prominent in the social and political life of the town and county, taking an active interest in progress, prosperity, and good government of the country. Some few months ago Mr. Lockett admitted his only son, William, into partnership with him, the firm being now known as John Lockett & Son.



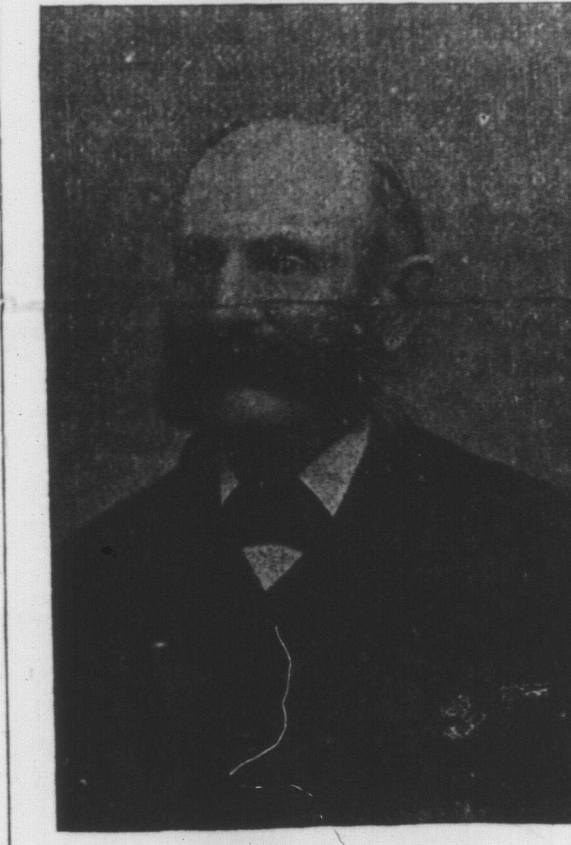
A. E. SULIS.

A. E. SULIS was born at Smith's Cove, Digby County, in the year 1853, being the second son of Capt. George Sulis of that place. Grandparents were of Loyalist stock and of French and English origin. Received his education in the common schools of this province. Leaving home at the age of 18 he spent several years in the New England States, returning in 1876. Was employed with the Annapolis Organ Company for two years. Came to Bridgetown in 1880, and with others established the Acadia Organ Company for the manufacture of parlor organs, which business he carried on successfully for some years. In 1886 bought the old Episcopal Church building and moved it to its present location, placing steam power and machinery in it necessary for carrying on the organ business, which had up to this time been conducted in a part of J. B. Reed's factory. In 1890 closed his organ business and put in electric light plant, which he operated successfully till 1894, when he sold the entire plant and machinery to the present proprietor, J. W. Beckwith, Esq. Since that time he has been associated with the firm of Miller Bros., of Halifax. Mr. Sulis is a very energetic and public-spirited gentleman, and during his residence in Bridgetown, was always actively assisting everything of interest or benefit to the town.



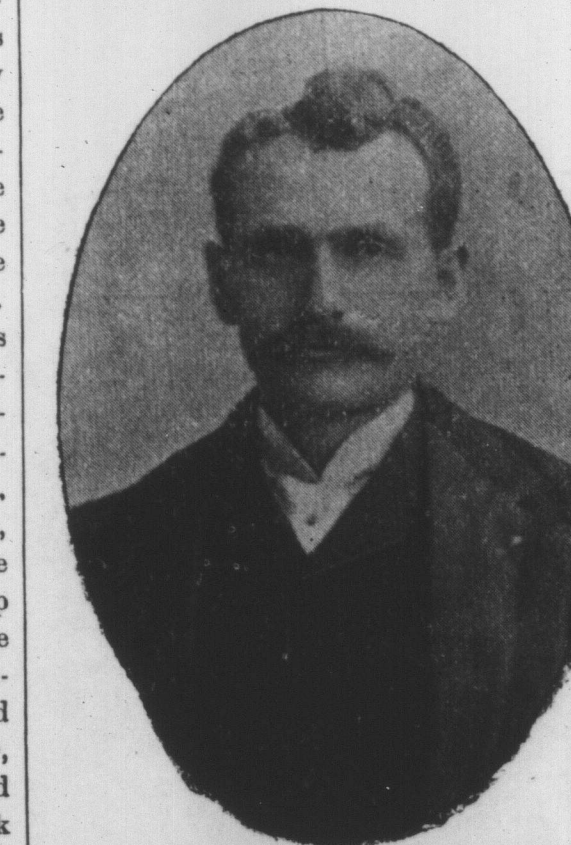
ALEX. P. REID, M.D., L.R.C.S.E.

ALEX. P. REID was born Oct. 22nd, 1835, at London, Ont., of Scotch Roman Catholic parentage. Parents came out from Scotland in 1832, and were pioneers in Western Canada. Notwithstanding the deficiency of early educational advantages, at the age of 18 he entered as a medical student at McGill College, Montreal. In 1857 attended medical courses at University College, London, Eng., at Hotel Dieu, Paris, and Rotunda Hospital, Dublin, and the winter session 1857-1858 at Edinburgh, taking the title L.R.C.S.E. in the spring of 1858, and graduating at McGill the same year, taking M.D.C.M. Entered on practice at Exeter, Ont. Spent 1860-1861 in North-West trapping and shooting. Made the overland trip to the Columbia River, being one of the company of five who were the first white men across the Vermilion pass. Gave his attention to goldmining till 1863, when a trip was made from Victoria, B.C., to San Francisco, Mexico, and the Isthmus. In 1864 came to Halifax. A short stay in N.S. showing its desirability as a residence he concluded to settle in Halifax. Took a special course at University of City of New York, and graduating in 1865, returned to Halifax and entered practice. In 1867 was instrumental in establishing the Halifax Medical College, and was the first Professor of Physiology, Practice of Medicine, and Clinical Medicine; also Dean of the Faculty. Has since held the appointments of Visiting Physician to Prov. and City (now Vict. Gen. Hospital; suppl. N. S. Hospital for Insane; Supt. Victoria General Hospital, which latter position he still holds. Is also member of Anthropological Society, London, Eng. Was instrumental in procuring act of legislature to raise the standard of medical proficiency. Married Eleanor M. Robinson (Halifax) in 1875, and has a family of four sons and one daughter. In 1887 purchased the *Eggar* farm at Nictaux, an extensive and valuable property, where his family at present reside.



A. VIDITO.

ALFRED VIDITO, Councillor, of Bridgetown, is the oldest son of the late Rev. Nathaniel Vidito, for many years a prominent and revered Baptist minister of this county. Born at Port Lorne, May 18th, 1828. Educated in the common schools of this county, principally at Paradise, where his father was pastor for many years. Learned the trade of a blacksmith and conducted a successful business at Paradise for fifteen years. Afterwards removed to Bridgetown and engaged in farming, which he still carries on. Has also for some years conducted a meat and provision business in Bridgetown in partnership with his son Frank. Has represented Ward 4 in the Municipal Council of this County continuously since the County Incorporation Act was passed. Was elected by acclamation in 1879, and at every election since. As a Councillor Mr. Vidito has rendered faithful and efficient service to the municipality, having served on many of the most important committees. Was largely instrumental in the establishment of a County Alms House, and has served on the committee of management of that institution, as well as of having charge of the county insane for many years.



M. G. E. MARSHALL, D.D.S.

M. G. E. MARSHALL, D. D. S. Born at Port Lorne. Received his education in Arts at Acadia University; was a teacher in the public schools of the Province for over five years; received his professional education in Philadelphia and Chicago, receiving the degree of Doctor of Dental Surgery from the American College of Dental Surgery. Also took the Post-Graduate course at the same school in 1892. Practiced in Liverpool for eight years. Removed to Bridgetown in May, 1892, where he is now enjoying a large and increasing practice.