

OUR PORTRAIT GALLERY.

S. CORNEIL.

THE subject of this sketch was born of Irish parentage in the township of Ops, County of Victoria, and Province of Ontario, April 7th, 1836. He worked on the farm until he was nearly eighteen years old, going to the common school in winter. He was big and strong for his age and being the eldest of the family and the only help his father had, got plenty of hard work. For some time before he left the farm he could take a man's place at most kinds of agricultural labor. He was always ambitious to excel, and won two prizes at ploughing matches before he quit farming.



S. CORNEIL.

From childhood he was a voracious reader, and received many a severe scolding from his father when he was found reading a book while his team was feeding. His father belonged to the Episcopal church. During a religious revival, young S. expressed a wish to join the Methodists. This displeased his father, who told him he might do so if he pleased, and could continue at home, but must do no more farm work. Learning that an examination of teachers was about to be held at Peterborough, young S. determined to attend it and try for a certificate. Peterborough was 18 miles distant, but our hero set off with a brave heart on foot. He got a friendly lift part of the way and arrived in good time to undergo the ordeal. He succeeded in obtaining a certificate, and found himself in

1853, at the early age of 17, a legally qualified school teacher.

He did not however take a school at once. His father, having relented, sent for him to come home again, which he did, and worked on the farm for another twelve-month. He then went to the Normal School for a session. He commenced teaching toward the end of 1854, and continued at it steadily for about 13 years, until June, 1867. He married early in life, so much so that statute labor could not be exacted of him until some time afterwards because he was under 21. The third year of his teaching he obtained \$400 a year, which was considered liberal wages in those days, and continued to get as good salaries as were paid to common school teachers at that time, but as the years

rolled on and his family increased faster than his salary, it became necessary to look out for more lucrative employment.

He decided to go into the insurance business, at which he has now been working for upwards of 20 years. During his career as a teacher he had the schools in Omeme, Balyduff, Cavanaugh, Milbrook and Ashburnham. He has resided in Lindsay for nearly 20 years. While attending the Normal School he was greatly benefitted by the teachings of Dr. Ormiston, which he found full of inspiration. It was not so much the information that was imparted, as the mental impetus given, that was of value. The Dr. always insisted on getting at the "whys" and "wherefores." Young S. at that time acquired a fondness for the study of natural sci-