

substantial buildings there. As mayor, and as member of the town council, he advocated all necessary municipal improvements with untiring zeal, his aim being to make Brockville one of the most beautiful towns in Ontario. We take pride in counting Mr. Comstock among Canadians, and have no hesitation in describing him as a representative one.

Mitchell, Thomas, Hamilton, was born near Brighton, in Sussex, England, in 1832. He is a son of Robert and Louisa (Mates) Mitchell, who emigrated to Canada in 1835, settling in what is now the town of Brantford. Here Robert Mitchell entered into the business of building and contracting, with his brother Thomas, continuing in the same until 1836, when he died, leaving four children, the subject of this sketch being the third of the family. Mrs. Mitchell is still living, and resides with her son, Thomas. In the days of Thomas Mitchell's boyhood, education was not as easy to obtain as at the present time, and he was left much upon his own resources for his educational training. At the age of nine he entered the employ of James Fish, of Brantford, and there remained four years. In 1845, he apprenticed himself to Alfred Reid, boot and shoemaker, of the same place, and here he remained till 1852. Then for a year he pursued his trade in different towns, but his health beginning to fail him, he was advised by his physician to renounce this trade. This he did, and entered upon the occupation of cigar-making, at which he continued till 1855, when he tried his hand at photography, in which he engaged for a year. He next returned to Brantford, there opened a cigar store, which he conducted for a year, and then began to travel for a broom manufacturing house in Brantford. In 1861, he entered the establishment of Bruce & Mugridge, of Hamilton, broom manufacturers, and three years later bought out the concern, which he carried on alone for seven years, when he admitted as partners Stephen King, of the township of Binbrook, Wentworth, and Charles Mitchell, his brother. This partnership continued till 1875, when it dissolved, and the management was assumed by our subject for the next six years (1881). A. W. Gage now entered as a partner, but in 1883 the connection was severed, and Mr. Mitchell once more assuming the sole proprietorship, which he has maintained, with constantly increasing popularity and success, down to the time of writing. Mr. Mitchell was for two years alderman of what is now No. 3 ward of the

City of Hamilton, and he was one of the most active and influential spirits in promoting the scheme for the construction of the Hamilton and North-Western Railway, and to his zeal and push was the success of the project in a large measure due. During the agitation prevailing over this project, Mr. Mitchell, with George Roach, ex-mayor of the city, proceeded to Ottawa and represented to the government there the practicability of coming in by the west end of the city, thus saving the expense of bridging, and avoiding the menace to navigation, over the Burlington canal. This project strengthened the government in demanding from the company a substantial bridge crossing the canal. Mr. Mitchell's arguments proved most convincing, and the consequence was that one of the finest bridges in Canada now spans the Burlington Bay canal. Mr. Mitchell has been a shareholder in the Hamilton and North-Western Railway; in the Royal Canadian Insurance Company of Montreal, and in the Merchants' Building Association of Hamilton. He has likewise been a partner in the Rabjohn, Ring & Co. foundry, of Hamilton. In 1875, he was elected a trustee of the Orphan Asylum of Hamilton, which position he still holds. In religion, he professes Methodism, and has held all the church offices, being at present steward of Zion tabernacle, of which the Rev. Mr. Snyder is pastor. In church matters Mr. Mitchell has always taken an active and zealous part, and from year to year has been sent as a representative of his church to the conference. He was a member of the first general conference held in Toronto; is a member of the Bible Society, and of the Y. M. C. A. In politics, he has been a lifelong and a true Reformer. In 1857, he married Isabella, daughter of the late John McVicar, of Mount Pleasant, Ontario. We may add that the mother of our subject married twice, the second time in 1846, Mr. Ede, of Brantford, becoming her husband. She removed with Mr. Ede to Hamilton in 1863, and here he died two years later, leaving one daughter. Mrs. Ede is still living, residing with the subject of this sketch, and although in her eightieth year, she is healthy and active, enjoying the comforts and the care of her son's comfortable home.

Hamilton, Charles James, M.D., Cornwall, third son of the late Dr. Hamilton, of Goderich, was born on September 15th, 1855, at Goderich. He is a son of Morgan J. Hamilton, who was a son of Lieutenant Hamilton, of the Royal navy, by Annie L., eldest daughter of the late James

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