

**A BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF
JOHN CHARLTON.**

JOHN Charlton is the son of the late Michael Charlton, who emigrated to America from Northumberland, England, in 1825. He was born at "Wheatlands," near Caledonia, N.Y., Feb. 3, 1829, and was educated at the McLaren Grammar School of Caledonia, and at Springville Academy, New York. He tried clerking, law and newspaper work in rapid succession, but on removing to Canada in 1849, he gave himself up to farm life and spent four years on his father's farm near the village of Ayr. In 1853 he went to Lymedoch, where he opened a general store in partnership with Geo. Gray. In 1859 he was placed in charge of the Canadian business of the extensive lumber firm of Smith & Westover of Tonawanda, N.Y., and in 1881 he embarked in the same business on his own account. In this business, in which he is still actively engaged, he has been most successful, and he is now counted one of the "lumber princes" of the province.

Mr. Charlton is a Liberal in politics and began his public career as a statesman in 1872 when he was chosen as the representative of Norfolk County for the House of Commons. This position he continued to hold with ever-increasing popularity until he withdrew from public life before the recent general election.

As a politician and statesman he is probably best known as a promoter of moral legislation. For many years he wrought in Parliament for the passage of a law affording protection to women and girls, and at last succeeded in securing the adoption of "The Charlton Act" in their behalf. He also ad-

vocated the better observance of the Sabbath, arguing that "while the law cannot compel men to go to religious services that it should provide that men be secured in the right to go to church, and have respect for religious duties if they desire to do so, and that any legislation calculated to secure rights of conscience and religious liberty is not only proper but desirable." Mr. Charlton considers rest from labor on Sunday a civil right and he bases his advocacy of the bill upon that assumption and upon the further assumption that the state may properly seek by legislation to promote the moral, physical and intellectual interests of the people. The bill passed the Commons in 1894 and among other things forbidden, it prohibits the publication and sale of Sunday papers.

Mr. Charlton has great faith in the future of his adopted country and aims to make it a model Christian nation. He urges Canadians to "lay the foundations of Canada's welfare in justice, and to build up the superstructure in honesty and truth; to believe in its possibilities and labor for its future, and to consecrate the high privileges of citizenship to the cause of patriotism, to enmity of political base-ness and corruption and to lofty and pure political ideals." He believes that our geographical position renders the cultivation of friendly political and commercial relations with the United States of prime importance, not only to ourselves but to Great Britain as well.

As a result of this faith he has advocated a reduction of the customs and an extensive reciprocity of trade. On such subjects Mr. Charlton is well qualified to speak. Referring to him, Sir Wilfrid Laurier says: "It is