

Mr. Whitlaw has been a councilman, reeve and mayor, in all more than twenty years, being in the last named office, at one period, for seven or eight consecutive terms. He has also served as a school trustee. No man has taken more interest in the village of Paris, or done more to place it on a solid basis. When the Buffalo and Lake Huron Railway was built he was a director of that road, and has identified himself with every movement tending to promote the growth and general welfare of his adopted home.

In politics he is a Reformer; in religion a Congregationalist, being deacon of the Paris church.

In 1848 he married Miss Celesta Morse, daughter of Collins Morse, a prominent citizen of Painesville, Ohio, she then being in Paris. They have four children. John is a commission merchant in Woodstock; Kate is the wife of E. L. Bond, son of Bishop Bond; Charles is a clerk in Toronto, and Maud is at home.

REV. JOHN LAING, M.A.,

DUNDAS.

JOHN LAING, pastor of Knox Presbyterian church, Dundas, and one of the best scholars of any profession in the town, is a native of Ross and Cromarty, Scotland, and was born March 24, 1828. His father, James Laing, was, in middle life, factor for Lady Hay Mackenzie, and his mother, Isabella Thomson, was a daughter of John Thomson, of Prior Letham and Waterluss, Fifeshire, a contractor for the British navy at Leith, during the war of the allied powers against France. This branch of the Thomson family is very old.

Our subject was educated in part at the high school of Edinburgh, holding a high place in his class, in 1842; came with the family to Canada in 1843; and finished his education at King's College and Knox College, Toronto, holding a distinguished position in his classes. While a student at Knox College, he also taught in the Toronto Academy, and was subsequently tutor in Hebrew and the classics in that college. He received the degree of B.A. from Victoria College, Cobourg, in 1871, and that of M.A. in course.

Mr. Laing was ordained at Scarboro' in 1854; preached there five and a-half years, and twelve years at Cobourg; spent one year at Ottawa in connection with the Ladies' College, which he commenced, and in 1873 settled in Dundas, being pastor of the strongest Protestant church in the town. He is a hard worker, has great power and efficiency as a minister, and there are very few pulpits in the Province which he is not capable of filling. He is noted for the plainness of his preaching, being outspoken and fearless in denunciation of wrong and sin of every kind.

Mr. Laing has always taken a leading part in educational matters in the several towns where