

Ireland, and came to America when a young man, and settled near Woodstock, N. B., where he engaged in lumbering and building. His mother, Eunice, nee Kimball, was a Nova Scotian of Scottish descent. One half of the family of twelve were born near Fredericton, New Brunswick, and the other half in Darlington township, Ontario. Farming having proved too heavy an employment for so delicate a frame as that which our subject possessed in his early days, the lighter work of setting type was chosen. Many a noon hour while a printer did he devote to books and papers in the office, dinner being deemed of small account in comparison with the advantage to be had from an hour's study. And while other boys were on the green with bat and ball, young Orr studied the French dictionary and picked sense and meaning and mental power out of the crow tracks of Pitman's phonography. Our subject left Bowmanville at the end of three years, and went to New York city and acted as compositor upon a paper called *Yankee Notions*. He acted likewise as short-hand amanuensis to a *Tribune* reporter, and as clerk in the supply department of a hygienic cure. He entered as a student in the Hydropathic College, under the care of Drs. Trall, Taylor, Dio Lewis, and other famous thinkers of the period. About this time he assisted Henry S. Clubb, of Manchester, England, now of Grand Rapids, Michigan, in compiling a work entitled the "History and Results of Prohibition," and subsequently travelled through New York state as agent of the "Maine Law Statistical Society." Reaching Rochester, he was employed by the *Daily Tribune* to report the Lyceum Lectures. His first attempt was said to have been perfectly shocking to read. All the applause and cheers of a four-column lecture were there, but only half a column of the matter. Rapid improvement was made, however, and this department of the paper proved quite a success—much more so than the paper itself. In the spring of 1856, the subject of our sketch returned to his native province, and though not yet of age, became editor of the *Oshawa Vindicator*, founded six months previously by McMillen & Luke, his father having purchased for him the interest of the first named partner. At once the young editor connected himself with the temperance movement, and refused to insert liquor advertisements in his columns. The paper lost a few hundred dollars by this course, but gained what was of more value, and has made money for its several owners from

that time till now. His printing office was once consumed by fire, but the paper was resuscitated, and his interest was shortly afterward disposed of to John Larke, now reeve of Oshawa. After a brief respite spent in travel, partly in the Muskoka district and partly through the Eastern States, we next trace his hand in the leading editorial articles of the *Toronto Daily Globe*. Hon. George Brown was in the Government, Gordon Brown in poor health, and therefore, during a considerable period the editorial care fell upon our subject and another writer, named Johnston, since deceased, with J. Ross Robertson, now of the *Telegram*, as their city reporter. In February, 1866, Mr. Orr, who, while in Oshawa, had married a daughter of the late Henry Pedlar, left journalism as a profession, and moved to Montreal, as one of the firm of S. Pedlar & Co., managers for Canada of the *Ætna Life Insurance Co.*, of Hartford, Conn. This firm's canvassing success soon stimulated their sleepy competitors, and the business shortly grew to dimensions which attracted the attention of other outside companies, and of the Dominion Government, and led to the establishment of the present insurance department, with Professor Cherriman as superintendent. Jealous of the success of the *Ætna* in Canada, doing business as it did at that time on the half-note system, most of the other companies united in a crusade against it through the *Montreal Daily News*. Mr. Orr's press training now came into play, and the columns of the *Montreal Gazette* gave answer to the charges of the *News* in such manner as to turn the tide again strongly in the *Ætna's* favour. Its strength and soundness and reliable character were thoroughly demonstrated, otherwise the outcome of the controversy must have been disastrous to it. About this time one of the three members of the firm, John Garvin, moved to Toronto, and established the company's business in Ontario. In 1870, Mr. Orr was induced to acquire the interest of Mr. Pedlar, and a few years later, by desire of the company, he also took charge of the Western Canada branch, and for some years had the management of the entire business for the Dominion. His health, however, began to give way under so heavy a strain, the business having grown to large proportions, and he therefore invited Dr. J. R. Alexander, who had proved himself a most successful general agent, to take the care of the Montreal city agency off his hands. Subsequently Mr. T. R. Christmas,

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