

and grain buyer, till appointed sheriff in 1872. Mr. Kempt had previously been a town and county councillor, and was member for the south riding of Victoria, of the first Dominion Parliament, being elected in 1867, and serving the full term of five years. His politics are Liberal; he was chairman of the Reform Committee for the county at one time; was formerly very active as well as influential in his party, but latterly has paid little attention to politics.

His religious connection is with the Presbyterian church, in which he was reared, and where his standing is good.

In September, 1849, Mr. Kempt married Miss Annie Jane Macaulay, of Trenton, county of Hastings, and daughter of Denis Macaulay, merchant.

Our subject has a very solid build, is five feet nine inches in height, and weighs 280 pounds. He has a florid complexion, a face that smiles easily and often, a very cordial address, and as much *bonhomie* as flesh.

## THOMAS H. PARKER,

WOODSTOCK.

THOMAS HARRISON PARKER, Mayor of Woodstock, and one of its most successful business men, was born in Cumberland, England, February 10, 1828. His parents are John and Jane (Harrison) Parker, members, for a long period, of the industrious farming community. Both the Parkers and Harrisons are old Cumberland families. Jane Harrison was a niece of Jonathan Walton, a wealthy proprietor of coal and lead mines in that part of England. In 1831, the family emigrated to Upper Canada, and settled in Peterborough, where our subject spent fifteen years in farming, and attending a public school part of the time.

In 1846 the family removed to the township of Zorra, county of Oxford, where John Parker purchased a farm, and cultivated it for some years. He is now living in Woodstock. His wife died many years ago. She was an earnest christian, very domestic in her habits, and thoroughly devoted to the interests of her family.

At the age of twenty years our subject returned to Peterborough, and engaged in the lumber business during the summers, and attended the Rev. Mr. Taylor's grammar school in the winters. From 1850 to 1855 he was at Brantford and Hamilton a merchant's apprentice, when having acquired a knowledge of dry goods, he came to Woodstock, and set up for himself. At the end of one year he formed a partnership with John D. Hood, and he continued in the mercantile trade until 1873, when, having realized a comfortable competency, he sold out, and retired from active business.

While in trade, the excellent business habits of Mr. Parker were patent to the public, and he was frequently called to perform various duties in the municipality of Woodstock, being in