

his party affiliations at that time, from a Liberal to a Conservative, no one who knows him thoroughly can doubt his sincerity or his honesty of purpose. That change on his part was the result of a change of front of the leaders of the Liberal party immediately prior to Confederation. He is president of the Manitoba and North-West Loan Company, and vice-president of the National Investment Company.

Mr. Aikins is a member of the Methodist church of Canada: and holds the offices of trustee and steward in that connection; was at one time Vice-President of the Ottawa Auxilliary Bible Society, and is a man whose christian integrity is unquestioned. It is fortunate for any Government to have this class of statesmen at the head of its departments.

In 1845 he married Miss Mary Elizabeth Jane Somerset, of Toronto, and she had eight children, seven of them yet living. His eldest son, John S. Aikins, is a member of the Legislature of Manitoba, and his second, Jas. A. M. Aikens, is a practising barrister in the city of Winnipeg.

Mr. Aikins has two younger brothers, who are physicians and surgeons, Dr. William T. Aikins, a prominent physician in Toronto, and Dr. Moses H. Aikins, who lives on the old homestead in the County of Peel.

HUGH FINLAYSON,

PARIS.

HUGH FINLAYSON, late member of the Ontario Legislature, is a native of Edinburgh, Scotland, a son of Hugh and Isabella (Black) Finlayson, and was born December 12, 1810. He received a parish school education; learned the trade of a saddle and harness-maker in the old country; and emigrated to the new world in 1832, reaching New York city on the 4th of July. The cholera was just paying its first visit to the Western Continent; people were dying at a fearful rate in the city, and in about a month Mr. Finlayson pushed westward as far as Cleveland, Ohio, where he worked at his trade between two and three years, removing to Brantford, Upper Canada, in 1835. The next year he settled in Paris, and has been a resident of this place for thirty-three years.

Mr. Finlayson had a harness and saddlery shop until 1855, adding a tannery in 1843, being in partnership in this branch with other parties. His partner since 1854 has been Samuel Qua; the firm name being Hugh Finlayson and Co. They usually do from \$25,000 to \$30,000 a year, and are ranked among the leaders in local enterprise.

Mr. Finlayson has held nearly every office in the municipality of Paris, from pathmaster to mayor, holding the latter office first in 1858, being the first chief magistrate of the town; and sat for East Brant in the Canadian Assembly from 1858 to 1861, taking the place of Hon.