

Ontario, Quebec and New Brunswick, as well as over large parts of Vermont and New York and touching Michigan. His fifteen years of experience in the early days of telegraphy form an interesting chapter in his life. Thirty-three years ago, before the time of submarine cables, the wires were stretched across the St. Lawrence, near Montreal; in summer, masts 210 feet high being set on either shore, while in winter they were strung on poles stuck in the ice. There were but fourteen offices in the five hundred miles between Quebec and Toronto, and telegrams from the latter city to Montreal cost 3s. 9d. currency. The modes of transmission, such as the Bain and House system, as well as the more successful Morse system, had not then passed the experimental stage, while the instruments were clumsy, and, measured by the progress of to-day, ineffective and slow. Having been a practical telegrapher, however, 'in the day of small things,' electrically considered, and having watched the development of the science to its present marvellous stage, the experience and technical knowledge of the man we are describing proves of decided service in his capacity of director to-day. 'To be a well-favored man is the gift of fortune,' says the clown in the play, words which are hardly less absurd than the rest of the sentence, 'but readin' and writin' comes by natur'. A man's pleasant looks are far more a matter of disposition, surroundings and descent, than of chance. In temperament as well as in appearance, Mr. Cassils is perceptibly a debtor to his parents, who were both good looking; the father being fine-featured and athletic, the mother (who still survives) fresh and *douce*. Both were of the spirited, sterling, God-fearing people of whom Scotland has furnished so many to this and other lands. Their sons and daughters, eight in number, are all in Canada; the five sons are among the respected business men of Montreal, and several of them besides the eldest, whom we are describing, have attained positions of responsibility and prominence in that great city. To be called 'a popular man' is sometimes an ambiguous compliment. In Mr. Cassils' case, the popularity enjoyed is founded rather upon integrity, geniality and quiet discernment than upon more showy but less admirable qualities."

#### WILLIAM DARLING

"Was born in Edinburgh, Scotland, in 1819, and when he was in his twenty-first year came to Canada, establishing himself shortly afterwards at Montreal, where so distinguished and honorable a business career awaited him. His father having adopted commerce in Edinburgh, the son resolved to try his fortune in the same sphere of activity in our new country. He entered into the iron and hardware trade, and remained connected with the same till the time of his death, achieving a wide measure of success. Mr. Darling married Miss Davidson, of Edinburgh, and there were eight children by the union, two of whom died in infancy. Two girls grew to maturity, one of whom married Dr. G. W. Ross, of Montreal, and died suddenly within a year of her marriage; the other died unmarried. ¶Four sons grew up with their father's business, and were associated with him as partners. William and James remained in Montreal, Andrew and Thomas J. went to Toronto, and took charge of the busi-