



R. R. Brett

when his father took him to France. He was given every advantage of education, his parents placing him in the Royal College of Saints, at Bordeaux, and later he entered the French navy. In 1851 he came to America, locating at Montreal, where he remained for two years, then went to Detroit, and later came to Windsor. He entered upon the study of law with Charles Atkinson, of Chatham, later engaging in the insurance and conveyancing business. He did not make his permanent home in Windsor prior to 1874.

While in Chatham Mr. Barillier made the acquaintance of Miss Clara Baby, a daughter of Edmund and Fannie (Urquhardt) Baby, and granddaughter of Col. Francois Baby, and this accomplished lady he married in 1853. She is one of a family of seven children born to her parents, namely: Clara, Edmund, William, Susan, Frank, Catherine and Louisa. Extended mention of the Baby family will be found in another part of this volume. Shortly after his marriage Mr. Barillier came to Windsor, as noted, and engaged in the practice of law in partnership with Albert Prince, a son of Col. Prince. He grew in prominence and in the confidence of the people, and became treasurer of Windsor, and it was while still serving as such that his lamented death occurred, July 10, 1891. His political views made him a Conservative. Religiously he was a devout Roman Catholic. Mrs. Barillier survives her husband.

Children as follows were born to Mr. and Mrs. Barillier: Charles E. is deceased; Mary Antoinette, who married Gabriel Chene, has three children, Arthur, Grace and Antoine; Clara Emma married Alexander Chene, and has three children, Alexander, Alberta and George; Josephine married William G. Mayhew, of Detroit, and they have one child, Marie; Georgiana Emily, married Francis D. Poole, of Escanaba, Michigan, and they have one daughter, Irene; Eugenia married Henry Bramley, of Detroit, and they have two children, Edmund and Violet; Charles married Margaret Macquire, of Cleveland, and they have two children, Reginald and Ruby; Victoria Alexandrina married Charles D. Wetherall, and they have one son.

The Barillier family is prominent in social circles in Windsor and other cities. Its religious connection is with the Roman Catholic Church.

RICHARD R. BRETT is editor and part proprietor and publisher of the *Essex Free Press* and a prominent citizen of the town of Essex,

where he has resided since 1896. He is a native of this county, where his entire life, with the exception of two years, has been passed.

John Brett, father of Richard R., was born at Ballysidare, County of Sligo, Ireland, in 1826, and came to Canada in early manhood. He was a shoemaker and followed his calling in Toronto, State of Iowa, York Village, County of Haldimand, and later in Amherstburg, County of Essex, where he lived from 1865 until his death in 1880. During his residence in Amherstburg he took an interest in public matters, was a councillor for the town in 1876, and in 1877 was elected deputy reeve, and as such was a member of the Essex county council. He married Ann Elliott, who was born at Halifax, Nova Scotia, where her father, an Irishman, and a soldier in the British army, was at that time stationed.

Richard R. Brett was born in Amherstburg, April 17, 1869, and his mother died when he was but nine years old. He was one of a large family, being the youngest son and eleventh child. He attended the public schools in Amherstburg, and in 1884, when but fifteen years of age, received a second-class teacher's certificate. Being obliged to earn his living, and being too young to teach, he went into the office of the *Western Herald*, published at Amherstburg, as an apprentice, and remained there three years, learning all the secrets of the printer's trade. In 1887 he attended the model school at Ingersoll, and received his full teacher's certificate. He at once secured a school, and taught for two years near Harrietsville, in the County of Elgin, and for one year in the County of Essex. In 1890 he went on the staff of the Amherstburg *Echo* as local reporter, and remained with that paper until June, 1896. In that year he and W. H. Auld bought the *Essex Free Press*, which they still carry on, and which is one of the leading weeklies of the county. Mr. Brett has taken an active part in municipal affairs since 1899, when he was elected one of the town councillors of Essex. The following year he was re-elected to this office, and in 1901 was elected one of the representatives of District No. 2, to the county council. This district includes the town of Essex, and the townships of Colchester North and Colchester South, and Mr. Brett again received the election to this office for 1903 and 1904. At the session of the county council in January, 1904, Mr. Brett was elected warden of the County of Essex for the ensuing year.

Mr. Brett was married at Charlotte, Michigan, in June, 1893, to Frances L. Roberts, who was born at Pontiac, that State, to which place her parents had moved in 1854, from New York State. Mrs. Brett received a thorough education in the Michigan schools. The children born to this union were as follows: Frances Elaine, Richard R., Kenneth E., Lillian A. M. and Marwood R. The family home is a large and comfortable house in pleasant grounds, owned by Mr. Brett. Both he and his wife are members of the Episcopal Church. His political faith has always been that of the old Liberal party. Mr. Brett is active in fraternal circles, being a Past Master Mason, a member of the Essex Lodge; Past Master Workman, of the A.O.U.W.; a member of the K.O.T.M.; Past Grand of the Odd Fellows; and Past Grand Conductor of the I.O.O.F., Grand Lodge of Ontario.

MAJOR FRANCOIS X. MELOCHE, whose military record extends over more than thirty-five years, is descended from one of the old French families of the County of Essex. The family was founded in this vicinity by his grandfather, Jean Baptiste Meloche, who was born in Lower Canada in 1771, near the city of Montreal, and there married. In 1786 he settled in Amherstburg, County of Essex, and there he died in 1830. He took part in the war of 1812 as a private, and later became well known as a contractor and builder. In politics he belonged to the Conservative party. His religious connection was with the Roman Catholic Church. Four children were born to him, as follows: Jean B., who settled in the States, and died there; Eleanor, who became the wife of Joseph Gascon, and lived to the age of ninety years; Joseph, who died unmarried; and Cyril, who was the father of Major Meloche.

Cyril Meloche was born April 3, 1811, in Amherstburg, County of Essex, and became a well-known and substantial citizen of that place, engaging in the butchering and meat packing business. In military affairs he took part in the suppression of the Rebellion of 1837-38, under Capt. Kevill, and was present at the taking of the schooner "Anne." In politics he also was a Conservative, and he served in various offices, being tax collector at Amherstburg for a long period. His religious connection was with the Roman Catholic Church, in which faith he died in 1889. In 1830 he was united in marriage with Christine Grondin, who was born in 1813, in

East Sandwich, daughter of Joseph Grondin, and died in 1896, at Port Huron. To these worthy parents were born the following children: Joseph, who married Eleanor McTavish, of the County of Middlesex, Ont., had one son and four daughters. Miss Elizabeth is a resident of Amherstburg. John, who married Josie Turner, of Detroit, has children—Bertha, Minnie, Monte, Hattie and Harry; they reside at Ottawa, where Mr. Meloche is connected with the London Life Insurance Company. Ellen, who is the wife of Henry W. Nutson, of Windsor, has children—Miles, Garfield and Mary. Mary, who is the wife of Capt. John Hutton, of Amherstburg, has children—Laura, Lillie and Milton. John B., who married Mary White, has children—Clifford and Rhea, and is in the employ of the Grand Trunk Railroad Company at Port Huron. Madeline, who married H. J. Pettypiece, member from West Lambton, and publisher of *The Forest Free Press*, has children—Nora, Charlie, Victor and Lister. Cyril settled in the States in 1865. Francois X. is the gentleman whose name opens this sketch.

Francois X. Meloche was born April 5, 1840, in Amherstburg, where he attended school until the age of sixteen years. He then came to Sandwich and remained until 1864, learning the trade of harness-making. Settling then in Windsor, he worked at his trade until 1869, when he embarked in the dry goods business, which he followed until 1874. From the latter date until 1880 he was very largely interested in a real estate business. From 1880 until 1898 he served as assistant postmaster at Windsor, and since 1899 has been bookkeeper for the well-known law firm of Ellis & Ellis, of Windsor. Major Meloche in 1869 was a member of the city council of Windsor, and in 1871-72 was assessor. Although well known in business and in social circles, Major Meloche has, perhaps, been most prominent in military circles. In 1861 he helped to organize Co. No. 1, of Sandwich, of which he was made sergeant, and in 1864 he became ensign. In June, 1865, he attended the military school in London, and in the following September attended the camp near Montreal, where 1,300 military school men and 1,600 regulars were assembled under Major-General Williams. In that year he was promoted to the rank of first lieutenant, and in 1866, during the Fenian Raid, was called out, in June of this year being made captain of his company, which, with three other companies, was under the command of Col.