



JOHN WIDDECOMBE.

JOHN WIDDECOMBE, eldest son of John Widdecombe, and his wife Helen, *née* Doyle, was born in London, England, Oct. 29th, 1856. When eight years of age, he was entered in St. Charles' College, founded by the late Cardinal Manning. At the age of fifteen years, he passed the preliminary examination prescribed by the rules of the Incorporated Law Society, and a year later was articled to William H. Tattam, a London solicitor, for a period of five years. In 1877, he was admitted as a solicitor of the supreme court of judicature, in England.

In 1875, he was commissioned as second lieutenant in Her Majesty's auxiliary forces (5 Essex Rifle Volunteers) retiring in 1881 with the rank of captain.

He practiced his profession in London, from 1877 to 1882, when he came to New York bringing letters of introduction to the late Cardinal McCloskey and other prominent persons in New York city. Soon after his arrival he entered the law office of Holt & Butler as managing clerk, and in 1887, upon the motion of Wm. Allen Butler, president of the New York Bar Association, seconded by the recommendation of such prominent lawyers as Abram Cole, Wm. B. Hornblower and others, he was admitted as attorney and counselor-at-law, in the state of New York.

In 1888, he removed to Stapleton, Staten Island, and the following year, after a brief co-partnership with ex-Judge J. J. McKeon, he began the practice of the law on his own account, occupying an office with Messrs. Holt & Butler. From that time his practice has steadily increased, so that at the present time he is regarded as one of the most successful and prominent members of the Richmond county bar, and he now occupies a handsome suite of offices in the Savings Bank building in Stapleton.

In 1890, he assisted the Hon. Geo. Gallagher, then district-attorney, in the prosecution of the celebrated election fraud cases, and in 1891, he assisted District-Attorney Fitzgerald in the Emmons murder case. In both instances he received many warm commendations for the thoroughness with which he prepared the case and the ability and skill displayed in presenting the facts to the court and jury.

On October 1st, 1879, he married Margaret, second daughter of G. T. W. Mugliston, M. D., of the Elms, Enfield.

Mr. and Mrs. Widdecombe have three children: Lawrence Winstanley, aged twelve, a student at St. Austin's school, Arthur Bernard, aged eleven, a student at the Staten Island Academy, and Emma Marguerite, aged three.