



Matthew Moulton

## Our Chancellor—Lord Strathcona.



THE Province of Moray, using the name in its widest geographical and historical acceptance, has been called the Scotland of Scotland. In the men and women of Moray one can observe the qualities and forces which have commonly been regarded as characteristic of the Scottish nation in larger degree, and truer balance, raised to their highest power. They are compact of many races, Pict, Celt, Scandinavian and Norman. They possess strength and vitality of body: which frame them to "endure hardness". They have great determination, self-reliance, and independence of character. What their hands and minds find to do they are apt to do with all their might; the work is more to them than the reward. Every one of them is at heart an adventurer—ready to take what risks and perils may be met with, trusting to intellectual resourcefulness, and capacity of rising to new occasions and new duties, to bring them through. Power they earnestly desire, not that, like the Viking, they may destroy, but that, like the Norman, they may build up. Their pride in their native country is intense and enduring, but it makes no discord with the more comprehensive patriotism. A largeness of mental horizon does not permit them to take Moray, or Scotland, as the measure of the world. If they owe to the Viking their stature, strength of will, and desire for adventure, and to the Norman their broad constructive intellect, it may be that to the Celt they owe the ideality which comprehends the temperaments, motives and actions of men of alien races, interests and traditions, and foresees effects while hidden in their causes. Our University, the most northerly of the "Academic quadrilateral," has taken its shape and purpose largely from its situation and racial environment. Its history is in a marked degree a record of hard practical work. Its *alumni* are cast in a Stoic mould. If it has produced some devotees of the cloistered virtues and not a few masters in abstract thought and science, its main excellence has consisted in training and arming men for the labours of active life and the service of mankind throughout every region of the world. Its records bear the names of teachers, healers, missionaries, explorers, administrators, builders of empire, and founders of new communities. The men of its training do not desire, if one may borrow the Lucretian figure, to watch from the safe and serene hilltop

the vessel labouring in the waves, or the legions embattled in the plain. Their ambition is to pilot the ship and weather the storm, to bear the standard to the front when the battle is joined. They do not refuse difficult ways to success and honour. Just as the folk of Moray are typical and characteristic among Scots, our Chancellor, Lord Strathcona, among folk of Moray origin, embodies that type at its strongest and best. His life and achievements reveal him as a representative man in whom the qualities of the type have attained their fullest measure of development.

Only a brief and fragmentary sketch of the more remarkable episodes of his career, and of his relations with our University, can be attempted. His reticence on all personal or private matters has been a stumbling-block, almost a scandal, to his biographers. Even the most adroit society interviewer, either in the Old World or the New, can record little more than impressions made by external visible facts, the number and variety of his offices, distinctions and dignities, his large-hearted hospitality, his rare collections of pictures, bronzes, and other works of art, his many munificent benefactions to public institutions, and his eminent services to the Empire.

In the art of giving to worthy public purposes, Lord Strathcona, like his cousin Lord Mount Stephen, has reached the highest standard of liberality. The schemes and institutions which he has aided or founded have been carefully planned, or worked out under his personal supervision. Perhaps Hospitals have held the first place in his sympathies. The Royal Victoria Hospital at Montreal, built and twice endowed by Lord Strathcona and Lord Mount Stephen, probably at a total cost of £500,000 sterling, their joint endowment of King Edward's Hospital Fund with a yearly income of £16,000, are well-known instances. Next, at no great distance, came Universities and Educational Institutions. The Royal Victoria College for Women, which he erected and endowed, the new Medical Buildings in McGill University, which he completed and equipped, are memorable examples. What he has done he has done simply and modestly. When the Royal Victoria Hospital was finished, an inauguration ceremony was suggested. "I want no flourish of trumpets," he replied. "Just open the doors when the buildings are ready and let the patients come in."

Born at Forres in August, 1820, the last year in which George III was King, he sits in the Parliament of George V. Men of an older generation wondered at the years of Lord Brougham, but Lord Brougham's years have been equalled by another Canadian, Sir Charles Tupper, and surpassed by Lord Strathcona.

His father, Alexander Smith, was a native of Knockando: it is said that one of his relatives had been "out in the 45," and had afterwards fought under Clive. His mother, Barbara Stewart, was one of the Stewarts of Leth-na-Chyle or Leanchoil in Abernethy, perhaps a more remarkable character than her husband. In her family the spirit



of adventure was strong. Of her three brothers one was in the army, two, John and Robert, were trading and exploring in the service of the North-West Company. The ties of sympathy between mother and son were peculiarly intimate, and it is likely, as is popularly believed of great men, that he owed to her his rarer qualities. He was educated at Jonathan Anderson's Institution in Forres, then newly founded for higher education by a native of the town. Afterwards he studied law in the office of the town clerk. There is a pleasant story of his schooldays. One of his companions was drowned in the great Moray Floods of 1829. Donald Smith went to condole with the parents, and insisted on their accepting his whole pocket-money as his tribute to the memory of his friend. The generous boy became the generous man. In Forres he has refounded Anderson's Institution and founded a Hospital named after his mother's birthplace.

When at eighteen he came to choose his way in life, several paths opened to him. He might have become a lawyer at home. His father's cousins, the wealthy Grants of Manchester (who figure in Dickens as the "Cheeryble brothers"), offered him a place in their Manchester office. It is said that he might have obtained an appointment under the East India Company. Probably his choice was decided by the influence of his uncle, John Stewart, the bold explorer, who had first served the North-West Company, and after its amalgamation with the Hudson Bay Company, became Chief Factor at Lesser Slave Lake. John Stewart secured for him an apprentice clerkship in the Hudson Bay Company's service. The Company traded and ruled over an immense domain, chiefly forests, lakes, rivers, swamps and mountains, sparsely inhabited by Eskimos, Indians, trappers, hunters, and the Company's officials. Donald Smith was sent to Hamilton's Inlet, one of the recently established posts in Labrador, the bleakest region in the Company's territory. In Labrador he served the Company for thirteen years, learning the ways of trade and the management of men. However poor the post, "Donald Smith always showed a balance on the right side of the ledger". He was fitting himself to go up higher. Promotion came, slowly at first, then swiftly and greatly. He became a Chief Trader, and, after twenty-three years' service, a Chief Factor. In 1868, he reached the highest Canadian position in the Company's service, the office of Governor or Chief Executive Officer. It was a critical time for the Hudson Bay Company, and the course of events drew Lord Strathcona into public life. The discontent, which later caused the rebellion, of Riel was already at work.

The Hudson Bay Company, like the other great chartered or incorporated Companies of England, Holland, France and India, had one defect inherent in every body of the kind, the confusion and combination of private trading interests with the public functions of government.

The people were ruled, on the whole, effectively by the Company's officers. But the governed had no voice in their government. In any conflict between dividends and public interests, dividends were apt to win. The population in the North-West had greatly increased. Assiniboia contained about twelve thousand people, hardy and excitable half-breeds, French, English, Scots, with a few Europeans, Canadians and Americans.

Canada was determined to annex this north-west region. The Company agreed to surrender their territory with some reservations for £300,000. This surrender excited strong hostility in the North-West Territory, which had not in any way been consulted. The French half-breeds thought they and their lands were being sold to Canada. Most of the Company's officers were against a change which deprived them of official position. One party, chiefly English, desired government as a Crown colony; another party favoured annexation to the United States; the ambitious Riel aimed at establishing a Republic. In the latter end of 1869 there was hardly a Government in being. The old Council of the Company was passing away; the new Governor appointed by Canada was forcibly prevented by Riel from entering. Riel had seized Fort Garry (which he held till the arrival of Wolsley's expedition) and proclaimed a Provisional Government. The Canadian Government turned to Donald Smith as the man whose influence and sagacity might save the situation, and dispatched him to Fort Garry, as Commissioner to inquire into the causes of discontent and to explain the intentions of the Canadian Government.

As soon as he entered Fort Garry, Riel made him a virtual prisoner. "Shoot the Scotchman Smith if he makes an attempt to escape or disobeys my instructions," were his orders to the guard after one stormy scene. But the Scotchman manœuvred Riel into public discussion, and gradually gained the confidence of the wiser leaders of the French party. "The part he had to act was that of a mediator." "The Portage-rising" against Riel, which Donald Smith thought as rash as it was unfortunate, strengthened Riel's power for the time: Smith saved its leader from execution, though Riel shot one—Thomas Scott, "to make Canada respect us". But Smith's discreet policy wore down Riel, who said as he fled from Fort Garry, "There goes the man who upset my plans". Riel was induced to leave the country. When order was restored and representative institutions were established, Donald Smith was elected member for Winnipeg in its first legislature, and also first member for Selkirk in the Dominion Parliament.

This double election was one of the most gratifying proofs of the personal confidence which his work of pacification had inspired. It attached him to the North-West, so long undeveloped, but abounding in natural resources.

With the inception and completion of the Canadian Pacific Railway,



one of the three greatest highways of the world, Lord Strathcona's name is inseparably associated.

For the development of the North-West, its population by immigrants and the increase of its commerce, rapid transit and safe communications by land on Canadian soil were essential. The creaking Red River carts and "prairie schooners" were hopelessly behind the times. They were not less necessary for the constitution of effective federal and local government. The question affected a wider issue, as men of foresight, both Americans and Canadians, had perceived. Whether Canada should become a powerful and loyal partner in the British Empire, or should be drawn into the political system of the United States, seemed to depend on how and by which country these communications should be built and controlled.

Two American companies had been incorporated, with land grants, one in 1857, which some years later became the St. Paul and Pacific Railway Company, to build a railway from St. Paul to the Red River, the second, in 1864, known as the Northern Pacific Railway Company, for the construction of a railway close by the Canadian frontier for about 1500 miles. In 1869 a Committee of the Senate of the United States pointed out that the line, if executed as planned by the Northern Pacific Railway Company, would drain the rich districts of Canada, secure to the United States the command by land and sea of the new commerce with Asia and Europe; it would "seal the destiny of the Western British possessions—they would be Americanized, and annexation would be a question of time".

Neither company made much progress with actual construction. Both fell into financial difficulties. By 1873 the St. Paul and Pacific Railway had only been completed for a distance of 217 miles.

In the meantime another potent factor had come into being. British Columbia entered into the Canadian Confederation on the express condition that within ten years railway communication should be completed from the Atlantic to its seaboard on the Pacific. There had been some opposition to admission because of this condition. The railway was denounced in Parliament as "impracticable" and "a commercial absurdity," but the Premier, Sir John Macdonald, had overcome it. Having secured a new lease of power at the election of 1872, he took instant steps to carry out this agreement with British Columbia. Lord Dufferin's Speech from the Throne at the opening of the second Parliament of the Dominion in March, 1873, announced that a charter had been granted to a body of Canadian capitalists for the construction of the railway to the Pacific. A large subsidy in money and land was provided. But, as noticed later, the political storm raised over the charter blew the Government out of office, and Opposition into office. Most men thought the railway shelved for a generation.

The new Government was, if not openly hostile to the railway enterprise, doubtful, timid, and reluctant to undertake responsibility.

The new Premier took refuge in delay—tried the partial substitution of communication by water with no success: his “Dawson road” became a byword, and Dawson narrowly escaped being lynched. British Columbia complained that the Government were breaking faith with her, and the award of Lord Carnarvon, to whose arbitration the dispute was referred, substantially vindicated her right to have the railway constructed as agreed at her entry into the Confederation. Still the Government dallied, and a considerable party in British Columbia threatened secession unless the “Carnarvon terms” were carried out. Lord Dufferin’s diplomacy poured oil on the troubled waters. At the next general election, Sir John Macdonald recovered his majority, and resumed office. But time had been lost, emigration had been diverted elsewhere, and many politicians were convinced, including even Mr. Edward Blake, that the original project must be abandoned to save Canada from ruin. Sir John Macdonald and Sir Charles Tupper came to London to endeavour to raise the necessary capital. They did not get it. English financiers thought the enterprise “a wild-cat scheme,” and buttoned up their pockets.

It was then, in 1880, that Donald Smith with his cousin George Stephen and friends came to the rescue. He had always thought that this railway ought to be constructed by the Dominion Government. But, when the Government failed, he with his friends undertook the task, and the risks, of its construction by a private syndicate. The engineering difficulties were enormous: the financial responsibilities to be undertaken were, in the state of the money market, heavy beyond precedent, and the prospects of revenue appeared doubtful, or at least distant. But they had stout hearts and the faith which can sometimes move mountains, they had already redeemed and connected with Canada the Old St. Paul and Pacific, and they determined to engage in this enterprise in order that the resources of Canada might be developed, and the links between Canada and the empire strengthened. Their contract for construction was settled and laid before Parliament in December, 1880. The railway was to be completed from Montreal to Port Moody by 1891: the syndicate were to receive 25,000,000 acres of land, alternating with Government blocks, and 25,000,000 dollars, with the sections of the railway already constructed, exemption from taxation and security against new competing lines to the south during twenty years. Some criticized these terms as too favourable to the syndicate, but the terms proved by actual trial to be inadequate to the costs and liabilities involved. Both Donald Smith and George Stephen pledged their private fortunes to prevent the work from being stopped for want of money. At a critical moment, when for want of money, operations were about to be stopped, and the other Directors had failed to get what was wanted, Donald Smith told them that he had raised another million “to carry them on for a bit. When it is spent we will raise some more.” There were other times of anxiety



during the years of construction. Once again, while Donald Smith was in the West supervising the construction works, supplies were exhausted, and, failing new resources, knew that the works must be suspended. But the crisis was overcome; Donald Smith received the welcome news in a telegram of a single word, "Craigellachie," and "stood fast".

The Directors were splendidly served by their engineers and superintendents—the work was pushed on with greater rapidity to its consummation. On 7 November, 1885, more than five years before the date fixed by the contract, at a place fitly named "Craigellachie," Donald Smith raised a hammer and drove in the last nail of the Canadian Pacific Railway. One may conjecture that the hammer and nail figured in his coat of arms commemorate this act which completed the great enterprise. What his friends had all along known now became publicly recognized—that he had been the prime mover of the undertaking. As Sir Charles Tupper, his predecessor in the office of High Commissioner, said in 1897 that railway would not have come into existence "but for the indomitable pluck, energy, and determination both financially and in every other respect of Sir Donald Smith". It is a monument of steadfast faith, courage and public spirit. Each succeeding year has proved in increasing measure its value to Canada and the Empire.

In politics, Lord Strathcona consistently maintained an attitude of independence. To him it seemed wrong to endanger the true interests of the country for any party advantage, or to submit his judgment and conscience to the bidding of any party-leader. Naturally, as Lord Melbourne once avowed, the supporter whom the party-leader thinks worth having is the man who will back him when he is in the wrong. In a party crisis, party-managers hate, for the time, more than the gates of Hades, the man who stands on his conscience.

A situation arose in connexion with the "Railway Scandals," which severely tested Lord Strathcona's metal. He had generally supported Sir John Macdonald, the "Conservative" leader, while entertaining friendly relations with Mackenzie and other leaders of the "Liberal" party. These party names did not bear the same significance or denote similar lines of action as in Great Britain.

In both Canadian parties there were many who promoted Confederation, who were convinced of the need for improving communications and commerce throughout the Dominion, and who hoped for a closer unity of Empire. But the "Liberal" party at that time contained the larger number of those who were mainly engrossed by sectional or provincial interests, and averse or doubtful to a bold policy of development of the Dominion as a whole and as a part of the Empire. In describing the Canadian politics of the early seventies as "a struggle of factions for power and place with the rancour, intrigue



and corruption inseparable from such a contest," Goldwin Smith employed his wonted exaggeration.

But the practical question of politics was to the ordinary elector mainly a question of persons,—for, or against, Sir John Macdonald's continuance in power. Sir John was the ablest and most versatile statesman whom Canada had produced. As a diplomatist he had done great service to the Imperial Government. He was the chief author of the recent Union and its Constitution, and he was ambitious to make Canada a strong partner in the Empire. On most questions, notably the rival policies of Free Trade and Preferential Tariffs, he was a frank opportunist. In the arts of party management he had no rival: consequently he never pitched his standard of political morality inconveniently high. Though personally incorrupt, he did not always scruple to influence elections by methods which came too near corruption. Possibly it was not for other politicians to throw stones: but a chance occurred which it was not in political human nature to resist.

In April, 1873, the Opposition accused the Government of having made an arrangement with Sir Hugh Allan, the president of the company to whom the Government had granted a charter for the construction of the Pacific Railway, that Sir Hugh and his friends should contribute a large sum of money to the election funds of Ministers and their followers. The charge was substantially that Sir Hugh had bought his charter by subsidizing Ministerial party funds.

Sir John Macdonald at once procured the appointment of a Select Committee of five members of the House to inquire into these allegations—which was ultimately superseded by a Royal Commission, consisting of three judges, who conducted a public inquiry and reported to the House. Sir Hugh Allan maintained that no money had been paid to, or received by, the Government directly or indirectly as consideration in any form for any advantage to him in connexion with the Pacific Railway. But it seemed clear that from some of Sir Hugh's associates, particularly a Chicago financier, Sir John had accepted money, not certainly for any private uses, but for the purpose and with the result of materially aiding the elections on the Government side.

The Liberal leader's motion of censure in the following October opened a debate more exciting and critical than the House had ever known. Independent members felt that, whatever might be said in extenuation, Sir John's conduct could not be justified.

But the motion of censure, if carried, meant the fall of the Sir John Macdonald's Government, and that meant delay, and might mean failure, of the policy of railway development. Donald Smith, then Member for Selkirk, was at Fort Q'Appelle, when the parliamentary conflict began. A weaker man would have stayed there. But Donald Smith travelled to Ottawa night and day, with special relays of horses, to take part in the discussion. No man knew better the consequences if the vote went against Sir John Macdonald. Sir John's friends,

and Sir John himself used every effort to persuade him. He told them that he could not conscientiously support the Government, but proposed that the Government should "frankly confess their fault to the House," and then "if the country condoned it, it would be a very different thing". But Sir John preferred to defend his conduct, and did so in a brilliant and characteristic speech on the sixth night of the debate. This sort of party outlay, he remarked, was in Britain managed by the Carlton Club for the Conservatives, and the Reform Club for the Liberals; in Canada, the party leaders received and distributed political subscriptions. When the Member for Selkirk rose, no one was certain what course he would take. His closing words left no doubt. "For the honour of the country, no Government should exist that has a shadow of suspicion resting upon it, and, for that reason, I cannot give it my support." In the corridors an exciting scene occurred. Sir John, maddened by defeat, used language which, though privately recorded, was not reported in the blue books. Mr. Smith retained his usual equanimity. It is pleasant to know that after feeling had cooled, and when they were again friends, Sir John told the Member for Selkirk: "I could never have thought so well of you if you had supported me on that occasion".

This attitude of independence he has maintained. He has always been disposed to judge measures, not men. Political office was offered to him, but no pressure could induce him to accept. His countrymen on both sides of the sea began to value his force of character, patriotic spirit, and vigilant sense of public duty. Fortunately, an office became vacant in which these qualities were to be desired, the High Commissionership of Canada in London. He did not covet it, but he accepted it in the hope of advancing the larger questions in both Canadian and Imperial Governments. His appointment made the office non-political, and he has filled it as no one had done before him. Perhaps had he desired, he might have been appointed in 1897 Governor-General of Canada. But as High Commissioner, an office which in his hands became invested with the dignity and functions of an Ambassador, he has possessed more real power to advance the development and prosperity of Canada, and make Canadian opinion and influence felt in Imperial questions.

Lord Strathcona's direct connexion with the University of Aberdeen began in 1899 by his election as Rector in succession to the Marquess of Huntly. As a rule, though Carlyle, Froude and Bain are notable exceptions, the students of the Scottish Universities have preferred men of action to men eminent in literature or science. Their choice has sometimes fallen on politicians not unconnected with the Treasury, sometimes perhaps more happily on statesmen of Imperial experience and distinction.

His northern origin, his services as Governor and Chancellor of one of the leading Universities of the Dominion, his active interest in the advancement of higher education, naturally commended him to the



choice of the students, especially as the University Extension Scheme remained to be completed.

Sir Edward Grey, who had consented to stand, gracefully withdrew, and all parties united in nominating Lord Strathcona. Since the union of the Universities in 1860, no other case of an uncontested Rectorial election had occurred.

The new Rector's address was no homily on an abstract academic theme, or inquiry into a question of pure science. No one would expect, as Lord Bacon said, from a man full of occupations matters of deep research. It discussed the question most important to the British race then rising into new prominence, though still obscured by difficulties—"Imperialism and the unity of the Empire". Some phases of this question were at least as old as the conflict between Great Britain and the Thirteen Colonies. Colonial Representation in the British Parliament was discussed by Adam Smith, Benjamin Franklin and Burke. The general idea of Imperial Federation had found many platonic friends and a few zealous champions among modern statesmen. But Lord Strathcona spoke to his constituents as the future citizens of the Empire with the authority of one who had borne a great part in what he described. He made them see and realize the manner and the meaning of the growth of the Empire, with the confidence that his words would meet a ready response from young men whose energies might hasten the practical solution of so momentous a problem. He traced the steps by which the modern Imperial idea had developed, and the increasing strength of the current towards closer unity. It was mainly by the perseverance and pertinacity of the Colonies, this development had taken place. Great Britain had been apathetic if not reluctant. Originally Britain had treated the Colonies as existing solely for the benefit and profit of its trade and commerce, an error which had disastrously retarded their earlier growth. A later, though lesser, error had been committed by abolishing or excluding preferential fiscal treatment of our colonial kith and kin.

But the grant of local autonomy, though possibly conferred in the expectation of ultimate peaceful separation rather than of federation or union, had, by throwing the Colonies on their own resources, made them independent and self-reliant. Somewhat grudgingly the power of establishing inter-provincial and inter-colonial preferential relations had been subsequently conceded with excellent results. The inauguration of the united Dominion of Canada, the Colonial and Indian Exhibition of 1886, the London Colonial Conference of 1887, the Conference of Ottawa in 1894, the Jubilee and Conference of 1897, and the Union of Australia had each promoted and strengthened the Imperial idea. Lord Strathcona expressed the confident opinion (not long after justified by events), that the Federation of South Africa would soon be accomplished, and bring an Imperial Union "within nearer reach".



As the most striking evidence of the growth of Imperialism he pointed to the share which Canada and Australia had voluntarily taken in the Soudan and South African Wars. (We all know who levied and equipped Strathcona's Horse). One consequence of this growth he made clear. All parts of the Empire now desired a voice in Imperial Foreign Policy, and in all matters which affected the well-being of the Empire as a whole, either in peace or war. We were now at the crossroads. A truly Imperial Parliament might come in course of development, but for the establishment of an Imperial Council, even at first only consultative, the time was now fully ripe. The defence of the Empire required to be organized. The large sea-faring population of the Colonies had not yet been utilized as a naval reserve: their coal supplies, harbours, docks and strategic resources had not yet been taken advantage of. The development of Imperial commerce, especially if our position in external markets was not maintained, for example in the Pacific, ought to receive greater attention. To lack of knowledge of the history, geography, and resources of the constituent parts of the Empire, of its position and potentialities, the apathy of the past was mainly due.

It lay with the higher educational institutions to model themselves to modern requirements, and one of these requirements was to promote the study and knowledge of these important subjects. The concluding words of the Rectorial address struck a note of confident optimism: "I am no believer in pessimism. It is enthusiasm . . . that alone will carry us forward. We must retain that confidence in ourselves, both in our individual capacities and collectively as a nation, which has always been a distinguishing characteristic of our race, and we need then have no fears, such as are sometimes expressed, for the future." Since 1899, the current has set more swiftly in the Colonies towards closer unity. The minds of leading statesmen in our Colonies have moved with that current. As Senator Schreiner of South Africa indicated lately, and the Canadian Premier the other day emphatically declared, a British subject living in the Dominions must ultimately have "as potent a voice in the government and guidance of this world-wide Empire as the British subject living in the United Kingdom". But our British statesmen are still content to watch the current.

The new Lord Rector, full of occupations as he was, found time to interest himself actively in the administration and work of the University. He aided the Union and other student organizations with a liberal hand. By example and advice he urged forward the scheme of extension towards completion on the ample scale of the original proposals. But much remained to be done when his term of office drew to a close. In April, 1902, he received the freedom of the City of Aberdeen, and at the Graduation Ceremony on the following day he bade farewell to his constituents.

But as it turned out his official connexion with the University was

only temporarily severed; when the Chancellorship, which is held for life, became vacant in the following year, the graduates of the University thought that this opportunity of appointing Lord Strathcona to the same office in Aberdeen University as he already held in McGill University, should not be lost. Mr. Andrew Carnegie, whose name had also been suggested, at once declined in emphatic terms to stand against him: "He is the right man. Don't fail to elect him." The General Council had no doubt that Lord Strathcona was the right man, and did elect him, with cordial unanimity, to the highest office of the University. Equally with the students, the older members of the University desired to honour the man whom they thought worthiest of all honour. They also desired to secure for the University one who would most fitly express and enlarge its distinctive spirit and energies, and restore to the office its ancient lustre, especially at the approaching quater-centenary celebrations.

Originally both Rector and Chancellor were intended to be, not only representative dignities but useful working officials. In modern times the office of Rector had become in the main honorary. The Chancellorship, in Aberdeen at least, had even more conspicuously dwindled. It had ceased to be anything except a title. Every "Officium" had gradually disappeared, except perhaps the occasional duty of heading a subscription list. The "Chancellor" had scarcely been even a figure-head;—a figure-head is part of the ship and a symbol of some special quality, event, or legend ascribed to, or related of, the ship. But, as the General Council well knew, it was not in Lord Strathcona's nature to accept any office without fulfilling whatever duties had been, or could be, attached, and magnifying it to its highest honour. Probably, no man of such various experience, distinguished public services, and force of character has held this position.

As Chancellor, Lord Strathcona continued his active encouragement of the Extension Scheme. He spared neither time, labour, nor money in aiding its completion. Its success was fitly crowned when the new and stately buildings at Marischal College were opened by King Edward in September, 1906, during the week of the quater-centenary celebrations.

In an Aberdeen University Magazine it is superfluous to recall the varied and picturesque succession of academic and civic ceremonials which filled that commemorative and memorial week. They are an abiding memory to all of us who witnessed them. Most of us knew, or came to know, what elaborate planning, what forethought and long preparation of details preceded this celebration, and how all concerned, from Chancellor and Principal to Sacrists, laboured together that nothing might be wanting. Without the Chancellor's aid some of the material difficulties in the way might have proved insurmountable. There was no building large enough for the reception of delegates and entertainment of graduates and guests—Lord Strathcona built a



hall of ample dimensions, in which he received official delegates, and entertained delegates, graduates and guests at a banquet worthy of the host and the occasion. But in all the ceremonials, solemn and festive, nothing was more impressive than the thorough sympathy and tireless energy with which the Chancellor fulfilled the succession of exacting duties which occupied each day from morning to midnight. Mere attendance at the more important functions somewhat tasked the strength of ordinary men. But the Chancellor, notwithstanding his eighty-six winters, moved without haste or rest, the central figure, through the full circle of these various functions. "In years he seemed, but not impaired by years." In those assemblies of scholars, thinkers, men of affairs and statesmen, gathered from the select of almost every civilized nation or people, no one surpassed him in natural dignity and courtesy. His speeches showed how fully he comprehended the value of educated intellect, the mission of Universities to train powers of mind, prepare young men for the service of their country and generation, form or discipline character, individual and national. In order to fulfil their functions he desired that Universities should move, not merely with, but in advance of, the times, raising and adapting their machinery, and bringing within their province each new department of science or art. We were all proud of our Chancellor.

In his own view, the secret of Lord Strathcona's success is summed up in the single word which he chose for his family motto, "Perseverance". Doubtless, without perseverance, which he has said is attainable by every man, his fine endowments of body and mind could not have served his aims to the proper measure of their promise and powers. Through perseverance he was able to work on and wait the issue in confidence, while alert to attract and grasp each opportunity on its appearing within his reach. Fortune came to him, as Demosthenes reminded the Athenians it came to Alexander, and as it comes to every helper of men, "not sitting still, but acting, toiling, adventuring". Yet it is a virtue, rarer and of higher temper which has given point and edge to his experience, resourcefulness, sincerity, sagacity, and firmness. He has always been bold, yet not too bold, in the meaning defined by one of the most brilliant public men of our generation, when addressing Scottish students on the value and duty of educated intellect to the State. "Of all kinds of virtue what goes farthest now is exactly what has gone farthest from the beginning of time—Boldness, Boldness, always Boldness. I use the term in its most sterling sense, the power of staying as well as the power of striking, the power of never minding what people think if you are in the right."

To few men has it been granted to attain such various and deserved success. He has received in overflowing measure the gifts which Wisdom bestows, the riches and honours which are in her left hand, and the length of active days which is in her right hand. He has been endowed with the still more precious gift of using these for none but worthy



ends. Of the main purposes of his life none has failed or been broken : each has prospered and brought prosperity alike to his native and adopted countries.

In a well-known passage, Burke vividly presented the growth of the American Colonies within the seventy years of Lord Bathurst's life. If Lord Bathurst's angel had opened to his youthful eyes a vision of the glories of the New World which he should see,—had foretold to him that whatever England had been growing to by a progressive increase of improvement brought in by varieties of people, by succession of civilizing conquests and civilizing settlements during a series of seventeen hundred years, he should see as much added to England by America in the course of a single life, "would it not have required all the sanguine credulity of youth, and all the fervid glow of enthusiasm to make him believe it?" Fortunate Lord Bathurst,—he had lived to see it. But Lord Strathcona has been even more fortunate. He has not merely seen a more rapid and progressive increase of improvements, and a quicker succession of new civilizing settlements, but he has been a great part, an inspiring and effective cause, of what he has seen. His life stands out among contemporary lives,—of three generations,—as solidly and clearly as that highest mountain of the Selkirk range which bears his name.

N. J. D. KENNEDY.

ABERDEEN (April, 1905).

[By Mr. Thomas Hardy's grace we are enabled to reproduce his verses on Aberdeen.]

"And wisdom and knowledge shall be the stability of thy times."—Isaiah xxxiii. 6.

I looked and thought, "All is too gray and cold  
 To wake my place enthusiasms of old!"  
 Till a voice passed: "Behind that granite mien  
 Lurks the imposing beauty of a Queen."  
 I looked anew; and saw the radiant form  
 Of Her who soothes in stress, who steers in storm,  
 On the grave influence of whose eyes sublime  
 Men count for the stability of the time.