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Social Sciences SERMON PREACHED ON THE OCCASION OF

BURN'S ANNIVERSARY, JANUARY 23, 1885.

TEXTS.

Deuteronomy, xxxiii. 29. "Happy art thou O Israel; who is like unto thee, O people saved by the Lord, thy shield and thy help, and who is the sword of thy excellency! and thine enemies shall be found liars unto thee; and thou shalt tread upon their high places."

Nehemiah, ii. 5. And I said unto the King, If it please thee, King, and if thy servant hath found favor in thy sight, that thou wouldst send me unto Judah, unto the city of my Fathers' sepulchres that I may build it."

SOCIETY OBJECTS.

The St. Andrew's Society, to which I have been asked to preach to-day, is a society composed of Scotchmen and the descendants of Scotchmen and is entered into for the purpose of keeping alive the national sentiment in the minds of its members; for the purpose, also, as I understand, affording a pleasant rallying point for brother Scots; and lastly and mainly—at least as its most useful object—for the purpose of holding out a hand of brotherly sympathy and help to fellow countrymen in the day of their distress. And if it would in any effective way accomplish this last mentioned object, no one would doubt the usefulness of its mission. For it is a fact well known to everyone the least acquainted with the feelings of his fellow men, that in the day when misfortune has overtaken us, and when we have fallen into a condition of want—are without means and without friends—we most naturally turn to our own kindred and those of our own country for help, and any help that is given by them is more acceptable and more agreeable to our feeling than any that could be rendered by strangers, not so well able to understand our feelings or appreciate our difficulties.

OUR PATRON SAINT.

Why is it, that Scotchmen regard Andrew, the brother of Peter, as our patron saint, I am not able to say. Indeed, why they need the patronage of a saint, ancient or modern, I am not able to say. No doubt if we had time to make the inquiry, we could easily discover the reason that these national societies call themselves by the name of a saint. The inquiry would carry us back to a somewhat remote period in our history, to a time when those who are called saints received considerably more attention than they do among us now—and when the patronage of a so-called saint was much more sought after, and much more thought of than it is now. However that may be the Saint, Andrew, by whose name our society is called, was one whose example and character we might well imitate a good deal more than we do. One whose name and history is worthy of being studied and admired, however little meaning we attach now to the idea of his patronage.

CHAPLAINS.

It is a noticeable feature of this as well as of some other national societies, that they do not consider their organization complete without having a chaplain—a tribute,