

#### LORD STRATHCONA

that is commonplace but it is none the less true. Props, crutches, helps are for weaklings. The men who have come to the front in all varieties of achievement have nourished this virtue. They may have other failings, they may, indeed, have been offensively conceited and overbearing, but they have never been weak. As a rule they have had to fight their way, have had to compel recognition, have imposed themselves by sheer force upon those who realized their value. And this stern necessity, this lack of external advantage has fostered in them this sterling quality of independence. It has made them self-contained, self-reliant, self-directing. And never were these qualities more in demand than to-day. Individuality is in danger from the pressure of society. Men are afraid to assert themselves, to break away from the regular route, to do things themselves without consultation and without help. If we explore the realm of success—in material things, in intellectual attainment, in the great movements that have reformed and transformed the world—we will find everywhere this quality embodied. In the vast majority of cases the gigantic men have been those who have followed this counsel of Lord Strathcona, "Do the work yourself; don't depend on the influence of friends on your behalf." This big man, of whom we write, had tried it and found it true. No feature of his character was more pronounced than this—his confidence in himself and his determination to preserve his independence. He fought his own battle, he won his own game, in his life's splendid result the biggest factor was himself.