

cine, under the direction of the celebrated Dr. Valentine Mott, and subsequently under Dr. Trall, the hydropathist. After four years of unremitting toil, working as compositor during the day and studying medicine at night, he received his degree of M.D. in 1855, and shortly after received the appointment of surgeon in the army of Nicaragua, then commanded by General William Walker. He subsequently became actively and earnestly engaged in the anti-slavery struggle in the United States, which culminated in the liberation from bondage of four millions of slaves. "Dr. Ross was a personal friend and co-worker of Captain John Brown, the martyr. Although Dr. Ross's sphere of labour in that great struggle for human freedom was less public than that of many other workers in the cause, it was not less important, and required the exercise of greater caution, courage and determination, and also involved greater personal risk. Senator Wade, vice-president of the United States, said, in speaking of the abolitionists:—"Never in the history of the world did the same number of men perform so great an amount of good for the human race and for their country as the once despised abolitionists, and it is my duty to add that no one of their number submitted to greater privations, perils or sacrifices, or did more in the great and noble work than Alexander Ross." He has received the benediction of the philanthropist and poet, Whittier, in the following noble words, which find their echo in the hearts of thousands:—

"DR. A. M. ROSS.

"For his steadfast strength and courage
In a dark and evil time,
When the Golden Rule was treason,
And to feed the hungry, crime.

"For the poor slave's hope and refuge,
When the hound was on his track,
And saint and sinner, state and church,
Joined hands to send him back.

"Blessings upon him!—What he did
For each sad, suffering one,
Chained, hunted, scourged and bleeding,
Unto our Lord was done.

JOHN G. WHITTIER,

*Secretary of the Convention in 1833,
which formed the American Anti-Slavery Society."*

The sincere radical abolitionists, with whom Dr. Ross was labouring, were despised, hated and ostracised by the rich, the powerful and the so-called higher classes; but Dr. Ross always possessed the courage of his opinions, and preferred the approval of

his own conscience to the smiles or favours of men. During the Southern rebellion he was employed by President Lincoln as confidential correspondent in Canada, and rendered very important services to the United States government. For this he received the special thanks of President Lincoln and Secretary Seward. When the war ended, with the downfall of the Confederacy, Dr. Ross offered his services to President Juarez, of Mexico, and received the appointment of surgeon in the Republican army. The capture of Maximilian, and the speedy overthrow of the empire, rendered Dr. Ross's services unnecessary, and he returned to Canada and to the congenial and more peaceful pursuits of a naturalist. The object of his ambition now was to collect and classify the fauna and flora of his native country, a labour never before attempted by a Canadian. He has collected and classified 570 species of birds that regularly or occasionally visit the Dominion of Canada: 240 species of eggs of birds that breed in Canada; 247 species of mammals, reptiles, and freshwater fish; 3,400 species of insects; and 2,200 species of Canadian flora. The *Montreal Herald*, of August 19, 1884, says:—"Dr. Ross has been a member of the British Association of Science for the last fourteen years, and of the French and American Associations for the past ten years. The following brief sketch will, therefore, prove doubly interesting in view of the approaching gathering of scientific men in this city. He has devoted special attention to the ornithology, ichthyology, botany and entomology of Canada; has personally made large and valuable collections of the fauna and flora of Canada; has enriched by his contributions the natural history museums of Paris, St. Petersburg, Vienna, Rome, Athens, Dresden, Lisbon, Teheran and Cairo with collections of Canadian fauna and flora. He is author of "Birds of Canada" (1872), "Butterflies and Moths of Canada" (1873), "Flora of Canada" (1873), "Forrest Trees of Canada" (1874), "Mammals, Reptiles, and Freshwater Fishes of Canada" (1878), "Recollections of an Abolitionist" (1867), and "Ferns and Wild Flowers of Canada" (1877). He received the degrees of M.D. (1855), and M.A. (1867); and was knighted by the Emperor of Russia (1876), King of Italy (1876), King of Greece (1876), King of Portugal (1877), King of Saxony (1876), and the Shah of Persia (1882), and received the decoration of honour from the Khedive of Egypt, and the decoration of the Palm Leaf from