

that had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do." As we look through this inspired description of the gathering of the tribes to David, we see them as clearly distinguished from one another as ever were Highland clans by plaid and plume, or regiments in a review by their uniform and colours. And what the pen of inspiration here does for the tribes of Israel, peoples and nations have done for themselves. They have shown that they possess not only different names, and occupy different portions of the world, but that they possess different characteristics. And they have inscribed their distinguishing features upon the annals of time. And this fact, which requires neither proof nor illustration, is very clearly exhibited in the history and lives of the Scottish people. For no nation has produced a more salient and clear cut type of character than Scotland. It stands out in clear and bold relief like her own rugged mountain peaks against the sky.

And assembled, as we are this evening, for our anniversary service, as a St. Andrew's Society, one of whose aims is to perpetuate the memory of our dear native land, and to gather the lessons which its history teaches, it will be quite in harmony with this aim, to consider for a little : *First*—The characteristics of the Scottish people ; *Secondly*—The origin of these characteristics, or how they have been acquired ; and *Thirdly*—Their practical worth.

I am deeply conscious that to deal satisfactorily with any one of these topics would require a volume rather than a sermon, and hence I can only notice them in the most summary manner.

And I am sure that in considering the characteristics of the Scottish people, upon an occasion like the present, it is scarcely necessary for me to observe, that there is no desire or intention to ignore or depreciate the many and honorable characteristics of any other people or nation. For while we may dwell with a pardonable admiration upon many of the characteristics of the sons and daughters of Scotland, we trust, that we are neither blind to their faults and failings, nor to the merits and noble qualities of the people of other lands. But just as the inspired chronicler seized upon the best qualities of each tribe and recorded them where they shine in the eyes of men of all ages, so may we seize upon the best features of a people and hold them up for admiration and imitation, and to say that the children of Issachar were "men that had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do," was no reflection upon the archers of Benjamin, or the swordsmen of Gad or the martial prowess and daring of Ephraim.

*First*, then, with regard to the characteristics of the Scottish people,