

" whose names are inserted in this booke doe and will by God's assistance give
 " as God will move us and as our ability will bear at our first entering but is
 " agreed that none give less at their first entering than twelve pence and then
 " quarterly to pay sixpence and that this our benevolence is for the releefe of
 " our selves being Scottishmen or for any of the Scottish nation whom wee may
 " cause to help, it is agreed that there shall nothing be taken out of the box
 " for the first seven years for the releefe of any."

This is simply political economy.

They thought of the value of having an accumulated fund, such as our Society to-day desires to have, something to fall back upon on a rainy day, and this desire obtained expression in the wish to provide for themselves as well as for their countrymen who might be in distress, and their action is explained by the fact that they lived in troublous times, when it was hard to say how soon any of them might come to want. Only seventeen years after two hundred years ago, they made another preamble giving the society a more established basis.

" The Eternall Lord and great Lawgiver to his people hath commanded
 " by his word a collection for the necessities one of one another for the relieving
 " of them who are under wants and poverty, workes of this kind being of the
 " fruits of faith and holiness, which hath been the practise of the saints in all
 " ages in their several societies, and also of our countriemen at home and a-
 " broad in maney parts of the world to God's glorie, the releefe of our contrie-
 " men in their povertie and the credit of the actors therein."

This, to prove our lineage, is read to you at this time for the express purpose of demonstrating that we belong to a right honorable and right ancient company of benevolent organizations for the "releefe of our brethren" The good that our St. Andrew's Society does here, can only be known by those who attend most closely to its work. Its good deeds are written in Heaven. It depends upon us for support. We have good cause to glory in our forefathers, but we have only a right to glory in them when we take their sword and gird it on our thighs, when their mantle has descended upon us in true Scottish fashion; when we will willingly and gladly express with our whole hearts our desire to do as they did, and to emulate their lofty actions and kindly charities. To give expression to our discourse, to put it into practical shape at once, and to worship God; in taking the collection for the relief of our Home is a simple thing instead of closing our sermon by prayer, but I would rather have it so; our winter is coming on us in all its severity, and the times are harder than they have been for many days, then let us in the spirit of these fathers of ours do as God has prospered us, and as our fathers are our glory, let us so act that, if from their celestial seats they are able to look down and take knowledge of us and knowledge of our actions, this shall be their glory.