

CANADA'S GRAND OLD MAN.*



LORD STRATHCONA AND MOUNT ROYAL.

Among the forces which have brought the name and fame of Canada to the very forefront during recent years, not the least has been the high patriotism and princely beneficence of our Lord High Commissioner at the heart of the Empire, Lord Strathcona. The devotion to duty of this veteran, now in his eighty-third year, his vigour, both of body and mind, and his broad-minded statesmanship, make him well deserving the title of Canada's Grand Old Man.

The story of his life is a most instructive one. Plain Donald Smith

was not born the heir to fortune, but the son of humble Scottish parents. His industry, integrity, and thrift, his Scottish pluck and grit, shaped his destiny. He was offered a situation in the Manchester firm of "Cheeryble Brothers," immortalized by Dickens, but accepted instead that of a junior clerkship in the service of the great Hudson's Bay Company. He sailed in an 800-ton vessel, which took nearly fifty days to reach Montreal. The future peer-millionaire for thirteen years served as a clerk at lonely outposts of civilization on the coast of Labrador, and ten years more on the inhospitable shores of Hudson's Bay. He devoted his winter leisure to reading, study, and writing long letters to his mother at Forres. A painful affliction of the eyes caused him to travel a thousand miles to

* "Lord Strathcona." The Story of his Life. By Beckles Willson. With Forewords by the Duke of Argyll, K.T., P.C., and the Earl of Aberdeen, P.C., G.C.M.G. With eight illustrations. Toronto: George N. Morang & Co. Pp. xii-288. Price, cloth, gilt top, \$1.50.