

The glimpses of military life which he got in his childhood and youth, and the stern discipline of his highland home were not lost upon him. He learned to bear the yoke in his youth, and in learning to govern himself, he acquired the first essential condition of success in governing others. He was the embodiment of the idea of duty; and this he impressed upon everyone about him. He had a remarkable gift for organization. He had a place for everyone in his employment, and generally the right man for the place. He was quick to discern what his employees were fit for, what they could do to the best advantage, and that was the part of the work to be done that was assigned to them respectively. Punctual to a minute himself, he naturally looked for this quality in others; and thus the business of his establishment went on with the regularity of a machine.

Mr. Macdonald had great confidence in his own judgment. This was the trait in his character, probably, which most severely tried his friend now and then. He made up his mind quickly, and when he had once come to a decision there was no more debate. The time for deliberation was past, and the time for action had come. This, to many, appeared to be the result of conceit; but in this very quality we have one of the prime conditions of his success. It was this that gave him that remarkable decision of character which was one of the most striking of his traits. This quality would have made him a great general had he followed the footsteps of his father and engaged in military life; it did make him an eminent and successful leader in the commercial world.

Mr. Macdonald did not allow the business of his calling, though he concentrated so much energy upon it, to so engross his time and attention as to destroy his interest in everything else, or to leave him no time to attend to any other duties than those of his warehouse. He was a domestic man, and never forgot the claims of his family. As husband and father, he did not think his duty discharged when he had made ample provision for the supply of the wants of wife and children, but found a thousand ways of ministering to their happiness in the home. He was a man of large reading, well up in the literature of the times. He was devoted to the interests of the Church of God. As a Methodist his attachment to his own Church was very strong and decided, but his sympathy extended to all other branches of the Church of God. He loved all that loved the Lord Jesus, and though his benefactions to his own Church were so large, they were not confined to it. He had no doubt a passion for making money, but even in the days of his comparative poverty he fortified himself against the hardening and degrading influence of covetousness, by sacrificing freely of his substance to the Lord.

But for the slenderness of his constitution and the failure of his health at the time when he was about to enter upon his life-work, Mr. Macdonald would have been a Christian minister; and though he was not permitted to engage in that calling, he had an ardent love for it to the day of his death. There was no class of men for whom he had so much sympathy and respect as those who were called to serve at the altar. He loved to help them in their work. He was an effective preacher, and excelled as a platform orator; and he was always ready to plead the claims of any good cause.

Dr. Johnston has succeeded in writing an interesting memoir of this remarkable man; and the Methodist Book and Publishing House has performed its part well in presenting it to the public in an exceedingly attractive form.