

LORD STRATHCONA

the Canadian Pacific Railway, amid the towering mountains of the Rockies, meant the completion of an undertaking that to men of lesser parts seemed impossible. But he would never admit it. He had the cheerfulness, not of the fool but of the strong and conquering spirit. Never did he show to better advantage than when engaged in some contest, with men or circumstance or nature, that put him on his mettle. "Grumbling will not help you an inch." Nothing is truer than that. It is a waste of time and energy. "A stout heart to a stae brae" was for him a better motto. While men grumbled and whined and complained he was up and doing, pushing his way and achieving his purpose. It was a great thing for an old man, whose life spoke louder than his speech, to say to the young men of his generation. It had been good for him. It would be good for them. The persevering man has the grumbler beaten from the start.

"Do the work yourself; don't depend on the influence of friends on your behalf." This means self reliance. It is a rebuke of that miserable dependent spirit which leads a man to lean upon his fellows and clutch at their skirts and beg their favor or assistance. This man had seen a great deal of that. His position and influence and, latterly, his great wealth drew about him a host of people who were anxious to avail themselves of his help and save themselves from the consequence of their own folly or weakness or idleness.