

REV. PROF. MURRAY, L.L.D.,

said that he wanted to make a personal explanation to the effect that he was called on only to fill a gap, and, therefore, if he did not do the subject justice they must excuse him. He had been called upon at the eleventh hour to fill the place of the junior Chaplain, who had just entered the room. They all congratulated him heartily on his appointment to a fine position in Toronto, and their best wishes went with him. The note that was sent to him requested him to reply to "The Land O' Cakes the world o'er." If this had come from his friend, Mr. McNamee, he would not have been surprised, as it sounded like a bit of Irish humor. However, there was no doubt the people of the "Land O' Cakes" were pretty well scattered the world over. Mr. Robert Chambers, in his ballad poetry of Scotland, had told a story of the "wee bannock," how an old woman was making bannocks for her good man, when one of the bannocks got frightened, jumped off the griddle and ran away. He thought this was a pretty good illustration of the way Scotchmen did who had left their native country. The position that Scotchmen had taken in other lands was the best proof of the energy of the national character. Scotia need not be ashamed of her sons. But he must not praise the Scotch too much, for there were features that they might very well copy from their English, Irish or French neighbours. But there were features in the national character which made them successful and influential for good. He saw great good in these national meetings. The influence and success of Scotchmen were largely owing to that hearty association which they showed in their national societies. Thomas Hughes, in his biography of Mr. MacMillan, the publisher, say:—"It is no wonder that Scotchmen succeed wherever they settle, when we find them so ready to help one another wherever they meet." This Society is founded on the principal of Scotchmen helping one another. We do not ask to exercise any undue political influence or any influence that is not proper and right. He hoped, therefore, that their meeting from year to year would have the effect of fostering that spirit to which Mr. Hughes refers, and he trusted that the St. Andrew's Society would always exert the healthy influence it had exercised in the past. He thought Scotchmen might be pardoned for being proud of their country and its sons, and their aim should be to imitate their great example. Our Burns, who has been the spokesman of all the finest feelings of the Scottish character, had given expression to the sentiment in the following lines:—

It was a wish—  
I mind its power—  
A wish that to my latest hour  
Shall strongly move my breast,  
That I, for puir auld Scotland's sake,  
Some usefu' plan or book micht make.

(Great applause.)

Rev. Mr. Cruikshanks, who was called on, thanked the Society for the honor they had conferred upon him by electing him Chaplain of the Society. He also thanked Dr. Murray for the good wishes which he had expressed. He thought the Scotchman was the product of three great influences, first, the language of his country; second, the sacred memories of the country; and third, the aspect of the country itself. All these things were elements which formed the Scottish character. He dwelt particularly upon the last as being very important in moulding the character of this nation. The features of the country were reflected in the character and dispositions of its people. He enlarged on this point in an ingenious manner, and described how the men of Aberdeen, Midlothian, the West Coast and the Highlands, all took their characteristics from the natural features of the portions of Scotland in which they lived. He thought the thistle also well expressed the character of Scotchmen in its self-preserving and self-propagating power. (Applause.)