

homes make an irreligious, rebellious people; while homes governed as so many in Scotland were, with firm authority and in the fear of God, produce a community of virtuous and law-abiding citizens. Our national poet Burns, in his splendid poem "The Cottar's Saturday Night," gives us a beautiful picture of the family life of many of Scotland's peasantry. He touches on the narrower aspect of economy to which I have referred, in lines which perhaps you will think too homely for the pulpit, when he says,

"The mother, wi' her needle and her shears,
Gars auld claes look amaisht as weel's the new;
The father mixes a' wi' admonition due."

But of the nobler, higher law of the house, he speaks in the familiar lines:

"The cheerfu' supper done, wi' serious face,
They, round the ingle, form a circle wide;
The sire turns o'er, wi' patriarchal grace,
The big fu' Bible, once his father's pride;
His bonnet, reverently, is laid aside.
His legart haffels, wearing thin and bare;
'Those strains that once did sweet in Zion glide,
He wales a portion wi' judicious care;
And, 'Let us worship God,' he says with solemn air.
They chant their artless notes in simple guise,
They tune their hearts, by far the noblest aim;
The priest-like father reads the sacred page.
From scenes like these auld Scotia's grandeur springs,
That makes her loved at home, revered abroad."

LOVE OF COUNTRY.

But further, and in the second place, I want, in concluding to speak of the duty of taking an interest, individually, in the welfare of our country.

This is the lesson taught us by the incident in the life of Nehemiah, referred to in the text.

Nehemiah was a servant at a foreign Court, far from his native land. And we are told that when certain men came up from Jerusalem, he enquired anxiously from them about his country, and the condition of his people. When he heard the unhappy state they were in, he was greatly distressed. The king saw his distress, and asked him the cause of it. He explained the cause of his sorrow, and made the request mentioned in our text. And the lesson he so teaches is for us all, of whatever nation, *that it is the mark of a patriot and a Christian to concern himself about the welfare of his country and fellow countrymen.*

We are told that some countries develop in their inhabitants a much stronger love for home than others. It is related of the soldiers taken from the mountains and valleys of Switzerland, to fight in a foreign land, that when they heard the strains of their national music they were so overcome with that feeling we call home sickness, that longing for home, that they were rendered unfit for duty. And it would seem that in the hearts of the inhabitants of the British Islands, and not least in the hearts of Scotchmen, this love of country is as strong as among any people we know of.

The beautiful scenery of our native land, more beautiful though not so vast in proportion, than anything this boastful continent contains, seems to impress itself very deeply on the heart, seems to lay hold of the affections with unusual strength. The Scotchman from home, if he has not allowed his nobler feelings to die out, can not let his thoughts go back to his native place without awakening a chord in his memory that fills his heart with a longing for the place of his nativity. When he allows himself in imagination to return to his home, and roam again over the hills, and by the side of the quiet loch, or the burn that flowed through the lonely glen, or by the seashore where in childhood he gathered pebbles or played with the restless waters, or to the