

BIOGRAPHY OF

wood"—has been the breeding place of strong men. They have gone out to the ends of the earth, have adapted themselves to all conditions, and have become leaders in every sphere of life—politics, commerce, war and literature. By their industry, shrewdness, perseverance, courage, self-restraint, and endurance, they have been carried through all difficulties, and over all obstacles, and have risen to the chief places. Nothing daunts one of that nationality. There is no situation he cannot meet. There is no set of circumstances into which he cannot fit. Adaptability describes the race.

Shakespeare, in "Macbeth," mentions Forres. It was near that place that the witches danced upon the moor and brewed their "Hell broth." It was at Forres that Macbeth murdered the King, and it was at Forres on Aug. 6th, 1820, that Donald Smith was born. It is a small and insignificant place. No one dreamed that the infant born on that summer day in that little town would become financier, statesman, philanthropist, and one of the best known and most honored men in the British Empire.

He came of enterprising stock. His relations, Smiths, Stewarts and Grants, had wandered far afield in the world-wide Empire. Perhaps, from the standpoint of an imaginative youth, the career of none of them was so fascinating as that of his uncle, John Stewart, the bold and enterprising fur-trader of British North America. He was so far away, and his life was so full of adventure, that it could not fail to catch the fancy of the lad.