

BIOGRAPHY OF

others were bewailing their unlucky fate and were busy explaining their lack of success he applied himself to the duty of the hour. With a cheerful temper and a steady purpose he kept on his way and at every turn of the road he was ready for the new development. His progress from the beginning to the end was uniform, each stage of it fitting into the next in an orderly series. There were no violent upheavals, no brilliant flights; only the constant and consistent warfare with circumstances as they came to him. It is probable that he builded better than he knew. It is questionable if he ever dreamed of the colossal result. He just did what everybody may do. He did the work himself and did not depend on others. The influence of friends is not to be despised but it is a poor substitute for the driving force of one's own determined will.

"Follow the old counsel: 'Trust in Providence and keep your powder dry.'"

In this we get a glimpse into the secret places of this reticent Scotchman's mind. He accepted the theory of a universe ruled and regulated by a Power transcending the limits of our understanding. He recognized the two elements which enter into every human effort—on the one hand, the element of "Providence" which controls the vast machine of which we are but a small part, which determines the final issue, which is concerned with results on a stupendous scale, and on the other, the element of the individual effort. The one is theory which is a matter of faith. The other is practical. It comes within the range of human