

fore, by broadening our conceptions of our relationship to the entire human race, and especially to the entire brotherhood of believers of every kindred, nation, tongue and people,—destroy, nor was it intended to destroy, while we are in this state, the affection we have for our countrymen and kinsmen according to the flesh. It sanctifies and elevates our patriotic feelings, as it did in the case of this great Christian patriot who so longed for the salvation of his countrymen.

This native instinct of the soul will be stimulated and strengthened by every historic achievement of our forefathers we delight to cherish, as by every quality in character and life we deem worthy of admiration. Paul found the history of his people very stimulating to his patriotic impulses; and not only their history but that which seemed a great possible destiny. Who are his people? What has been their history? How the thoughts come rushing in upon him! My people, my countrymen! Their's is "The adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service of God, and the promises; whose are the fathers,"—what a magnificent galaxy of names—heroes and statesmen, prophets and poets!—"and of whom," crowning glory of all—"is Christ as concerning the flesh, who is over all, God blessed forever." The possible destiny of a people with such a history! Will they forfeit all these sublime possibilities? There seemed great danger of it. Paul felt that he could not let his people, a people with such a history, and, if only found worthy, a people of destiny,—fall away without a supreme spiritual struggle on their behalf. "My heart's desire, and prayer to God, is for them that they may be saved." "I could wish that I myself were anathema from Christ for my brethren's sake; my kinsmen according to the flesh."

The sons of Scotland are strongly imbued with the patriotic spirit. Strong affection for country and kinsmen,—“clannishness” some term it,—is a striking characteristic of our race. It is not without reason. The struggles for civil and religious liberty, protracted through centuries, did much to knit the hearts of the people together, and to develop strength and nobility of character. The struggle for national independence, and the well-won victories of the doctrines of the Reformation in Scotland, did much to shape and develop national life, and to lay the foundations of the sterling character, for which Scotchmen have a reputation the world over. In these struggles Scotland revealed the heroism of her sons. She is justly proud of such heroes as Wallace and Bruce in the field, and John Knox and Andrew Melville in the religious arena. Out of this latter conflict especially were developed forces that have largely contributed in producing the