

BIOGRAPHY OF

mind, is the resolute purpose he showed from his earliest days to his latest hours."

These are a few of the public utterances of which Lord Strathcona was the subject. They could easily be multiplied a hundredfold. The man gripped the age in which he lived and made a distinct and vivid impression. The remarkable story of his life captured the imagination. His success, to quote the word of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, had been "phenomenal." He had won his way through a tanglewood of difficulties, out into the open, and he had done so without ostentation. He was endowed with great gifts but they were solid in quality rather than brilliant. The simplicity of the man, his quiet and gentle manner, the reticence which avoided display, the absence of the vulgar assertive, self-advertising spirit which, too often, shows itself in the newly rich—all this impressed itself on those who knew him best. And through all the eulogistic utterances which followed upon his decease there runs this note. Men dwelt upon this conspicuous feature in his character, its reserved power. There was no exaggeration, no wildness of speech or action, no flights of fancy, no outbreaks of passion. He observed the golden mean, was moderate in all things, a wise man, sound of judgment, temperate in speech and yet possessed of a great determination. No finer example can be found of the old-time maxim, "Where there is a will there is a way." He had a will and he made a way. The building of the Canadian Pacific Railway was an illustration of the conquering power