

murder ; and the voice of John Knox, proclaiming scriptural truth, resounded over the land like a thunder peal. It smote the superstitions of the age as with the stroke of lightning. It rent the bonds of spiritual thralldom, and Scotland stood erect, a nation rejoicing as the freemen of the Lord, in the enjoyment of a larger liberty than any other nation on the earth. And in a later age, when a despotic sovereign sought to restrict religious liberty in Scotland the nation declined submission to the yoke, and 28,900 martyrs died to maintain the crown rights of the Redeemer and the religious freedom of the land. There have been no nobler contendings for the truth * * * * *

and to that great conflict maintained in Scotland against arbitrary power, is due, more than to any other event the constitutional rights of the British people, and the greatness and glory of the British Empire." The convictions that were strong enough and permanent enough to lead men to enter such a struggle and maintain it, penetrated their very hearts' core, brought their life and all they had under control, and moulded a character rich in every manly virtue and radiant with every christian grace—and the principles for which they contended in the field, and were outcasts upon the mountains and suffered at the stake, were those that moulded the home life of the people. There the fear of God, reverence for his name and laws and ordinances, with all the virtues and graces of which their faith in Christ was the root, were diligently inculcated. Homes like that described in the "Cottar's Saturday night," and there are tens of thousands of them in Scotland, made the truths of the Reformation, the truths for which fathers and mothers and friends suffered and died, living, practical realities, verities to fill the heart and govern the life. And her homes, out of which sprang the social state and natural life with all its virtues and amenities, give to Scotland her high position and lofty character for patriotism and piety, for honesty and faithfulness.

" From scenes like these old Scotia's grandeur springs,
Which makes her loved at home revered abroad."

Such then are some of the things which have moulded the character of the Scottish people. The external appearance of this character may be, and often is stern and rugged, with an air of gloom about it, like the mists on their native hills. But that form has been wrought out through rough and bitter experiences. There are the seams and scars of many a conflict in which all was ventured—the marks of the furnace upon it. But these experiences, descending, like "freedom's battle form bleeding sire to son," have wrought these characteristics so deeply and fixed