

III. Our situation is one which devolves upon us all very grave responsibilities and duties. It is not required of us to attempt the impossibility of forgetting the land of our birth ; but, while preserving a grateful and affectionate remembrance of that land, and cherishing an undying interest in whatever concerns her national character and affects the welfare of her people, we ought not to enervate our energies for present usefulness, by giving way to the foolishness of a mere romantic doting. There are considerations sufficiently legitimate and powerful to animate us to a wiser course, and to direct and stimulate our endeavours to follow it. That our lives may be truly profitable, we must circumscribe the range of our activities within manageable limits. The wider relations we sustain are most honourably upheld by a faithful attention to such as are more immediate. If there be anything in the position and character of our nation to justify in us a feeling of honest pride, let us demonstrate our sense and appreciation of it, by cultivating here a strict adherence to the principles of honour and virtue which constitute the only true foundation of it. If we have any faith in the distinctive characteristics of Scottish individuality, let us be jealously watchful against whatever may tend to impair them or throw discredit upon the name we bear. If we have been taught to revere all noble and manly qualities, let us not nullify the instructions of our youth, by giving way to indiscretions and follies in maturer years. If our love of country has been nurtured to robustness amidst wholesome influences, let the fruits it should be producing now be as the seed which, by its fall, propagates the goodly plant. The land in which we live and the community of which we are members are the field which shall hereafter show, to what, if any purpose, we have imbibed the spirit of patriotism, and improved the legacy of a generous self-reliance inherited from our fathers. This country has claims upon our devotion to its weal which we cannot dare to repudiate, without proving ourselves to be unworthy of our origin. Here, the bountiful God whom we