

build. And so the people decreed. And on through a long line of noble successors, in the face of every kind of opposition, in the face of every kind of persecution, in the face of treachery among the people, in the face of kingly threats and kingly tyranny, the good work was carried on, and in every corner of the land these worthy sons of the people and successors of the heroes of earlier days labored to preach the pure Gospel of Jesus Christ, to teach men to read for themselves the book of God, to think for themselves, to claim and exercise those God-given rights of conscience which tyranny, both civil and ecclesiastical, would seek to deprive men of. Popery had said, let the book of God be shut, and darkness brood over the nation. The awakened people said, let the book of God be open to every soul within the realm, and opened it was, and open let it still remain.

Such was the spirit of these early advocates of liberty and righteousness. And we may say fairly enough, though there have been times of declension on the part of those to whom the people looked for guidance, that our country has not yet departed from that upward path on which she then entered under the teaching of these early reformers. In every succeeding age men have been raised up by God able to teach the people knowledge—men who loved the truth, men who could write it and speak it with eloquence and power; men, also, who were ready to die for it when occasion called for such a sacrifice.

WORTHY NAMES.

The latest page of our history is by no means wanting in the names of men worthy of Scotland's brightest days; men whom the world is willing to listen to, and does still listen to with admiration. The names of Chalmers, of Guthrie and McLeod, and Cairns (still at his post,) are but a few names out of many worthy of any period in our national history. And were we to go outside of the church, we would find names still higher on the roll of fame, showing that in every walk of life, the sons of old Scotland are still able to stand in the front ranks with the greatest and best of any nation. Nor has Scotland been content to enjoy her privileges alone. In every corner of the world her zeal for the truth has been felt. On the roll of the Church's missionaries alongside the foremost of any age, stand the renowned names of Wilson, of Duff, of Livingstone; this noble missionary, dying on his knees, by his bedside, in the heart of the jungles of Central Africa, the last and noblest of her martyrs to religion and liberty. Nor is there a country in the world where Scotchmen are not to be found, and among them men true to the traditions of their country. Foremost in every enterprise, benevolent or scientific, fighting on the side of liberty and truth, teachers of every useful art and science, centres of influence, missionaries of the Cross, pillars of the church, and loyal upholders of the laws and governments under which they live.)

Paul said, when challenged as to the place of his birth: "I am a man which am a Jew of Tarsus, a citizen of no mean city," and we may legitimately count it an honor to belong to such a people, to have inherited such a name, to have enjoyed such teachers, to have imbibed such principles. The remembrance of this should rouse us to emulate the deeds of our noble fellow countrymen, and seek to lead a life that will not do discredit to so worthy a name. But time forbids dwelling further on this point.

I would have liked, in the *second* place, to have pointed out as a prominent feature of our history, that our nation has always pleaded for and insisted on the education of the people; the education of the poor as well as the rich; the opening of the door of college and university to the sons of the humblest peasant in the land. This has been a very conspicuous glory of our country; to this she owes much of her fame; and let us say this in passing, that this is a subject of supreme importance to us Canadians as a people, that in no way can a nation more profitably expend its money and its genius than in building up the educational institutions of the country. It is a lamentable evidence of our remaining barbarism, of our want of intelligence—not peculiar to us