

THE DEESIDE FIELD

customs of the shepherds of the glens and the conditions under which they lived were made very real and vivid to the eager descendant of the Mackenzies of Glen Isla.

But I think what gave him most pleasure in his exploitations was the discovery made by Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Brown of Witchhill, Fraserburgh, of the actual house where his grandfather, John King, was born and baptized, and the name of the minister, Rev. George A. Simpson, who baptized him. It is a pretty little place, named Ladysford, in the parish of Tyrie, now belonging to the estate of Mr. Ogilvie Forbes, and occupied as a tenant by Mrs. Davidson, who, with her son and daughter, gave Mr. Mackenzie King and his party a warm and hospitable welcome. The illustration of the house is from a photograph of a sketch made by Mr. William Henry.

Mrs. Davidson also gave Mr. King an old chair, and an old fashioned kettle which came originally from the manse of Tyrie, and some cuttings of flowers, which are now planted in the Prime Minister's garden at his home near Ottawa. In exchange, Mr. Mackenzie King has sent Mrs. Davidson a comfortable arm-chair of modern design, a very charming interchange of gifts. Thus Mr. Mackenzie King returned to Canada fully acknowledged as a son of Aberdeenshire, and a free Burgess of the City of Aberdeen. During his visit the Prime Minister planted a maple tree, in remembrance of his Coronation year visit, in the grounds of Gordon House, thus giving to Aberdeen another token of his connection with the Granite City.

On the Sunday morning before he left, he yet further sealed his fellowship with us by participating in the Communion Service at East and Belmont Church, Aberdeen, conducted by the Rev. M. Urie Baird, together with myself and members of our family circle. Of this experience he wrote to me in the following words:—

"I think of all that I experienced and enjoyed most while in the British Isles and the Continent was the Communion Service in which we shared. That is what I value most and which will remain, even if all else is forgotten."

We in Aberdeenshire will henceforth watch Mr. Mackenzie King's career with added interest and pride, and we are vain enough to believe that it will do him no harm in Canada to be known as belonging to the City and County of Aberdeen.

It is very well worth while to place on record some extracts from the report of Mr. Mackenzie King's speeches at the ceremony in the Music Hall, when the Freedom of the City was conferred on him and Mr. Lyons, the Prime Minister of Australia, and at the Civic Luncheon which followed, as reported in the *Aberdeen Press and Journal*:

Mr. Mackenzie King referred to his own personal associations with Scotland, and spoke of the part

which his paternal and maternal grandfathers took in the struggle a century ago for political freedom for the mass of the people in Canada. William Lyon Mackenzie's rebellion was not rebellion against the authority of the Queen; it was a rebellion to win for British citizens in Canada the liberties and freedom which British citizens at home had already begun to enjoy.

He revealed an interesting fact in the lives of his grandfathers during those anxious days. His mother's father was a leader of the Rebellion, and his father's father, John King, left Aberdeen with a detachment of the Royal Horse Artillery, to take up life in the Dominion. So during that Rebellion, he said, John King trained a cannon on a windmill, in which William Lyon Mackenzie, his mother's father, was supposed to be secreted, in the hope of blowing both the windmill and his grandfather to pieces.

Each was serving as he thought best and right the traditions and the ideals that were dearest to his heart. John King had his natural inclinations strongly associated with the Crown; William Lyon Mackenzie's associations at the time were more closely with the people and their struggles for political freedom.

But each of these men was seeking to do his part to preserve what he believed to be best both in the Crown and in popular institutions; and the story of the development of the British Empire has been the keeping of these two together in such a way that instead of there being discord between them there is perfect harmony.

Mr. King then spoke about his Scottish forbears when he alluded to the 150-mile journey he had made from Dundee through Glen Shee and Glen Isla on his way to Aberdeen. "I have looked at the homes of my ancestors," he said, "and I have realized how they lived. My thoughts go back to what it must have meant to those men and women who spent their lives in toil on those hillsides and glens, and then had the courage to leave all, and their security here and go across the Atlantic, with all its terrors, and enter the primeval forests of the Dominion, there to hew out homes for themselves with the end in view that their children and their children's children might have a freedom greater than they themselves had been privileged to enjoy.

"The struggle was not merely in the lives of those who were in the forefront, but in the lives of the great unknown and unnumbered pioneers who went out and settled in Canada and helped to develop it in those early days. If to-day we have this great Dominion, it is due to the lives of those simple, humble folk who feared God, upheld the King, and, above all, revered their God. Had it not been for what my

King, Rt. Hon. William Lyon Mackenzie (MG
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