

might be given to the public had been prepared, impressed upon him the duty of meeting this reasonable demand. To a man of his ardent temperament and active habits prolonged literary work is the most irksome drudgery. He would rather face a heathen mob than write a chapter for a book. But convinced of its importance, he undertook the task, receiving valuable assistance from the Rev. W. S. McTavish, B.D. For weeks together he did little else than ransack note-books and journals, and explore the stores of his capacious memory.

A few months ago Dr. MacKay put into my hands a mass of literary material—notes, observations, extracts from diaries and reports, studies in science, fragments of description, sketches of character—and laid upon me the responsibility of organizing this material into form and life. This responsibility was increased rather than diminished by the very full editorial powers allowed me. I knew how easy it was to be "worlds away"; for, as Macaulay says about the writing of history, the details might all be true and the total impression inadequate and misleading. Every scrap of material was read and studied under the author's eye, annotations were made at his dictation, and the plan of classification and arrangement received his cordial approval. As the work progressed and the gaps in the story became apparent, additional matter was obtained, and nearly all of the manuscript in its final form was revised by him. The aim in editing has been to preserve in its integrity not only the substance but the literary style of the author—to retain something of the vigor, the boldness, the Celtic enthusiasm, so characteristic of Dr. MacKay's public speech.

It is believed that the intelligent public will appreciate solid information as well as moving incident; and it was Dr. MacKay's desire that prominence should be given to what may be least romantic, but is most instructive. The chapters in the second division of the book, "The Island," are of necessity brief and fragmentary, the exigencies of space preventing the