

A MODERN KNIGHT ERRANT.

BY J. NEWMAN SMITH, M.A., NEW YORK.

THE age of chivalry has long since passed away; the long perspective of succeeding centuries has softened the rugged features of that period, barbarous and mercenary in its prosaic reality, and we are apt to behold it dimly, enshrouded in the romantic mists of legend and tradition, the age of graceful gallantry and knightly devotion. Our own age is one governed by underlying motives, that while not less base, are the more flagrant that we can boast of a moral revelation and an intellectual cultivation wholly withheld from the former. The motto of the times is "*Sauve qui peut.*"

Hence it is a pleasant task to record the deeds of one whose life comes nearer to the chivalrous standard of ideal chivalry than ever plumed knight, occupied. as it has been, in a

long championship of the enslaved, whether by temporal power, by human passions, or by the hands of ignorance or prejudice. Such an one is Dr. Alexander Milton Ross, to whom the philanthropic and scientific worlds will need no introduction, but for that reason, will read with added interest of his early struggles of which the golden fruits of his strong and noble life are the outcome.

ANCESTRY.

Dr. Ross was born in Belleville, Ont., December 13th, 1832. He is descended on his father's side from the Highland Scotch. His father, William Ross, was a grandson of Captain Alexander Ross, who fought with General Wolfe at Minden and Louisburg, and took part in the battle on the Plains of Abraham, which resulted in the defeat of the French and