

commerce, or profitable manufactories, or manhood suffrage, or the ballot box, or education in arithmetic, or standing armies, or perfect freedom to cheat our fellow men, or unestablished or disestablished religion; but individual righteousness that exalteth a nation. And this is written to awaken in them and in us the desire to love righteousness and hate iniquity, to show them and us wherein true national glory exists.

Such being the teaching of Scripture, we may feel justified in making use of any reasonable means, such as our schools, our literature, our national societies, to keep alive the remembrance of all that was worthy and memorable in our national life; that the noble deeds by which it has been rendered famous, which have inspired its poets and been an example to all ages, may be imitated by succeeding generations.

Turning then to the history of our people, while we do not claim as Scotchmen to be in any respect superior to the other races that are united in the British nation we do find some national features worthy of being perpetuated, and on these let us reflect for a little.

NATIONAL FEATURES.

There is perhaps no nation of which we have any account, that has not had its heroic period; a period in which the national virtues shone forth with more than ordinary splendour; a period in which there was a struggle for national existence, and in which the nation had opportunity to vindicate its claims for freedom and independence. And the Scottish nation has had such a period in her history; and though small in respect to territory and population, compared with other lands, has occupied a high and honorable place in the annals of the world for the brave stand she has made for her liberty. Her sons can point with just and patriotic pride to many heroisms in her history, and above all the vices of her people, and all the darker features of her national life, there stand forth events and periods worthy to be recorded, and worthy to be remembered as conferring honor on our country.

It would be out of place here to dwell on the political aspects of our country's history; on the noble efforts put forth in earlier periods on behalf of civil liberty; on the protracted and bloody conflicts in which the nation was engaged, and through which, by her unconquerable valour, the priceless boon of liberty was wrung from the grasp of tyranny. These also are memorable and worthy of the poet's song. Nor would it be in place here to recount our national glories in the fields of literature, science and art, or to speak of the prominent part our countrymen had taken in the wars of the British nation, or in extending her commerce, or in governing her colonies, or, in short, in all the highest kind of work men find to do. I would rather confine our attention to elements more in harmony with the present occasion and which lie at the foundation of any renown we justly claim as a people.

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY.

And our nation has from the time of Reformation been conspicuous for this, that it has exalted religion to its rightful place as the source of natural prosperity. That brave and noble spirit, John Knox, who fills so large a place in the early struggles of our national life, while fighting valiantly for liberty of conscience, recognized and taught—what the nations are so slow to learn—that it is by the truth, and by the truth alone, any people can be made free. He inspired the nation with this principle, and he toiled throughout his noble and laborious career to stamp this truth deeply on the heart and conscience of the people. The truth shall make you free. Therefore let the truth be proclaimed. Let it be preached and taught in every corner of the land. Whatever vested rights of Church or State may suffer, whatever established customs may be overthrown, whatever noise and revolution it may cause among the slumbering abuses that have existed so long, whatever opposition it may awaken, let the truth be the heritage and possession of every citizen, from the highest to the lowest, and on *that* let the nation