

PREFACE.

This lecture was not originally intended for the press, much less for a book. It was intended merely for an ephemeral "rough and ready" story of Scotland's contributions to the world's welfare, and to be told at a Scottish society's evening entertainment. As years have passed since it was first told, the story has been gradually lengthening by adding new events up to date, yet retaining its original simple and unadorned style. It has been told to several Scottish Societies—Caledonian, St. Andrew's, Sons of Scotland, and Gaelic—without charge; and numerous requests have been made to have it printed for the honour of Scotland. It is a wonderful story, but its sensationalism or eloquence consists only in stubborn facts, supported by authorities considered to be reliable. It was first delivered before the St. Andrew's Society, Cobourg, Ontario; and lest, from its somewhat ambitious title and corresponding facts, it might seem that I was claiming too much for Scotland, I endeavored to do justice to both Ireland and England, by delineating in the same lecture, their respective national characteristics, and showing the share which each of these nations has had in advancing the world's moral and physical welfare.

Being accustomed, as a preacher, to having a text from which to speak, I selected as my text the British