

Saint Andrew appears to have had more honour than any of the other apostles, although he was distinguished only by the readiness with which he was the first to obey the call of our Lord. There must, however, have been in his qualifications for the apostleship something peculiarly great, as he was chosen to evangelize the most cultivated people of antiquity. That he succeeded, Saint Paul bears witness, declaring that so great was the faith of the Achaïans (the Greeks) that he needed not to preach to them. His success is also shewn by the determination of the people whom he had taught, to rescue him from the hands of the cruel tyrant who doomed him to the cross.

Of all countries Scotland is the one in which the memory of Saint Andrew is least honoured. This neglect, no doubt, must be ascribed to the rigid Calvinism which is still so prevalent and which forbids all honouring of the saints. The Scotsman when removed from his native home shakes from him such intellectual trammels and his devotion appears to revive as he treads the soil of a distant country. This pleasing circumstance is well shewn by the great number of benevolent societies in the name and under the patronage of Saint Andrew that have arisen on this continent. The members of these societies, not unmindful of the innumerable blessings that are heaped upon those who are considerate as regards the needy and the poor, whilst they cherish the memories of their native land, are careful to make ample provision for their fellow-countrymen in distress. Such liberality is very notable as concerns the St. Andrew's Society which was constituted in this city (Ottawa) some forty years ago. The celebration of St. Andrew's Day by these societies is partly religious and partly secular. They meet in their hall and walk thence in procession to the Kirk, where their chaplain or some other friendly minister delivers a sermon suited to the occasion. In the evening there is generally a concert. This last year, at Ottawa, the evening's entertainment was Sir Walter Scott's "Rob Roy" dramatized. The audience was numerous and much amused by the performance.

The sermon was, on the whole, in good taste and appropriate. The Preacher's remarks on our new home, Canada, are particularly noteworthy. "This Canada of ours is a goodly land to live in; and we are only now as a people beginning to awake to the full consciousness of our magnificent inheritance. There are leagues of forests which have never yet rung to the woodman's axe; mines and mineral wealth yet wholly undiscovered; there are thousands of acres of fertile soil through which the ploughshares have not yet been driven; and though we are a young people and for the most part engaged in what we call practical matters, we have every reason to be proud of the intellectual status of our country, of the schools, and colleges, and general system of education and of the laudable efforts which some amongst us are making to win for themselves an honourable name in science, or art, or literature, and in this way to erect a worthy memorial to the land that gave them birth. . . . We are Canadians and as Canadians we believe that we have a destiny. We desire to carry forward unsullied the banner of our national birthright and win for ourselves an honourable place among the nations of the earth. . . . If Canadians are fully alive to the magnificent grandeur of the task which is imposed upon them. I think they will conclude that we are not intended to be a mere appendix to someone else's book of history. . . . We must bind ourselves together from ocean to ocean in a united brotherhood, our hearts filled with a divine enthusiasm and our laws framed to achieve the supreme ideal of national prosperity and the happiness of that people whose God is the Lord."

With such celebrations in Canada which is, as yet, in the eyes of mankind, a mere colony, what an encouragement to old Scotland to awaken, renew its devotion and walk in the footsteps of some of its noblest sons! One of these, a nobleman of high rank and large fortune, has done honour to Saint Andrew, and the handsome church which he has erected in Saint Andrew's City will long remain, instructing and edifying the generations to come.