

never knew," through long centuries of war and persecution, Scotland resisted, in council and on the field, the persistent efforts of tyranny and despotism to enslave her, and ceased not the strife until she had won the prize of freedom for which she fought. But it is in her moral and religious qualities that her crown of excellency is found. In these lie the secret of her strength. They constitute her highest glory. Her people are distinguished for their truthfulness, their faithfulness, their honesty, their high and sensitive honour ; they have a sacred regard for the institutions of religion, and an unswerving faith in the truth and absolute authority of the word of God. Their loyalty to Christ, as the only King and Head of the church, has been witnessed by their struggles and battles, their sufferings and martyrdoms. They have an invincible faith in God as the absolute Sovereign who rules in righteousness and who through all the strifes of the ages is working out the counsels of his own will. It is these qualities that gem the character of Scotland as with stars. Her chief riches are her faith. Her battle cry on many a field, was "For Christ's crown and covenant." She adores and glories in the crown rights of Christ, and in the riches of that sovereign grace which, without earthly priest or prelate, grants to every needy, seeking soul liberty of access into the Holiest of all. To secure liberty for the word of God, liberty for all her sons and daughters to read and hear that word—and to maintain the absolute right of Christ to rule his own church, through the officers which the church herself should choose, much of her costliest treasure was sacrificed, and much of her richest blood was shed. For these were more than life to her.

Such are some of the distinguishing characteristics of the Scottish people. And in presenting this summary I have the suspicion that some enthusiastic Scot may think that the enumeration is quite incomplete, that there are many shining qualities in the Scottish character that have not been so much as named : for I have an impression that some of my countrymen, without wishing to see excellencies where there are only mediocrities, or to find virtues where there are none, possess an almost ineradicable belief that, give a Scotchman oatmeal, and in his character every virtue that has a name will bloom and flourish. I cannot, however, hope to satisfy such. My conscience will not permit me. And, therefore, whilst admitting that the enumeration of characteristics now given is only partial and incomplete, yet, I think, it is sufficiently full and accurate to give us a somewhat definite conception of the Scottish character.

And, now, in the *Second* place, let us notice the origin of these