

ANNUAL SERMON.

From Mail and Empire, November 29, 1897.

AT the Bloor Street Presbyterian Church last evening the pastor, the Rev. W. G. Wallace, preached a sermon to the members of St. Andrew's Society, basing his remarks upon the words of Psalms, xcvi, 1, "The Lord reigneth."

There was perhaps no nation, he said, in whose life the truth of the text was more clearly manifest than in Scotland. The providence of God was to be seen in Scottish history, and in the development of the Scottish character. In Scotland's two emancipations this great truth was made clear. Taking the successful struggle under Wallace and Bruce through which Scotland had become independent, and the Reformation struggle under Knox, when Scotland had become a nation, it was found that the two hung one upon the other. The first without the other would have left Scotland a separate land; the second without the first would have ended in but a partial success. The freedom won at Bannockburn would have been worth far less if it had not been followed by the higher and nobler freedom which had come with the Reformation. Protestantism was not a mistake, and high on the honor roll should be placed the names of Knox and Melville, Rutherford and Henderson. It was not, perhaps, generally understood how necessary Bannockburn had been to the national life awakened by the Reformation. Without the victory of Bruce the Solemn League and Covenant would have been impossible. With England supreme north of the Cheviots the Reformation would have been very much