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## SIR WILLIAM MACKINNON.

Another of the minds of imperial worth has gone from among us with the death of Sir William Mackinnon. Large in the grasp of public questions, large in his sympathies, and great in the quickness by which he 'took occasion by the hand,' whether to push a commercial venture or to seize a favorable moment for the advance of national interest, he was one of the men who do more in a few years than can be accomplished by a score of peddling politicians. Soundness in business and honesty in the wider relations of human affairs seemed with him to be the products of that rooted faith in religion which dominated and guided all he did. When associated with others, older and of more experience in banking than himself, in the directorate of the Glasgow Bank, he protested against a procedure which he thought bad, and, finding that he was not listened to, he resigned. Years afterwards, when the policy he had objected to brought down the institution with a crash from which many persons in Scotland still greatly suffer, it was attempted to make him responsible for the failure. Advisers came to him, begging him, in his own interest, to compromise the matter. They argued that it would damage his reputation if his name were dragged into the lawsuit, that a given payment would be taken in satisfaction, that he had best compromise the affair, and then he would hear no more of it. Nothing could have happened better calculated to show the metal of Mr. Mackinnon. He declared he would fight it to the end. He was unjustly assailed, and he would show the world that it was so. Not a bawbee would he pay for a compromise. He had given counsel long years before which had been rejected, and he had declined to have anything to do with the bank if guided on the principles he condemned. He would prove to all men that he was right. And so the indictment was brought, and they attempted to make him liable for that which nine years before he had left the directorate for condemning. But, after a weary trial, instead of trouble, came justification and triumph, for the judges, one after the other, in giving judgment, not only exonerated him from all blame, but expressed their sorrow that the advice he had given had not been taken. If Mr. Mackinnon's voice had been listened to, the Glasgow Bank smash would never have occurred. The result of the trial was a personal triumph to him and a homage to that steadfastness of character for which he was so conspicuous. Success crowned almost everything he undertook; nor will the last of his great enterprises be an exception if Equatorial East Africa be taken over by the British State of the Zanzibar Sultanate. It is best at this time to touch lightly only on those troubles which struck him such hard blows during his last months of life. We desire to cover with flowers the bier of our friend, and it would not be

grateful to him were we to show the ways in which his generosity and nobility of mind were met. Patriotism can do much to exhibit a Government in a light which history may mourn, but the exposure would in itself be a pain to the patriot. Sir William received a baronetcy for the services performed in carrying out the desire of a 'Liberal' Government; but he lived to see another Government calling itself by the same title afraid to support the policy the country had encouraged a private citizen to commence. Let us hope that now the earth has closed over him Britain will not allow his efforts to extend her reputation and carry freedom into the Dark Continent to be buried under weak taunts and an inglorious fear of responsibility. The best monument we can raise

Africa, even if they have, as hitherto, to defray the whole cost of the proof themselves. He was encouraged by Lord Granville to accept the concession of the coast region from the Sultan; he was spurred on by the same Minister and his representative in the House of Commons to occupy the regions about Kilimanjaro. We believe that the country will find in the wide sphere of influence allotted to it by European sanction, extending as this area does over 700,000 square miles, a field for the opening of new markets as well as for the opportunity to show that we have not lost our sense of what is due to the comity of nations, and to the place we have hitherto held in the regard of the world, as pioneers in the liberation of the slave. It is supposed that such high ideals cannot

accomplished. They are as a rule men who cry out on others but never offer to pay a cent themselves, and their highest achievement is to call attention to their own importance for good. Such persons are capable of vilifying the best physician because he uses medicines they profess are nasty.

There is a zeal which is still more incomprehensible to the idlers and 'supers' of the pavement. This is religious zeal. 'Cold missionary' is the only condition in which any 'hot gospeller' is tolerable. They who believe in nothing, accomplish little. Sir William was a great believer, and a great doer. His creed and his deed went much together. His 'plantations' were often church stations, and much money did he give both at home and abroad to aid his Church. The early education he had received with his father and mother at Campbelton, where he belonged to a Highland family, surrounded by the descendants of Covenanters, imbued him deeply with Church ideas, and those mostly of an old-fashioned type. He would often say that he attributed all his success in life, under God, to the keeping of the Sunday. He would seldom open even a telegram on that day, a letter never, if he could help it. The rest thus given to him he considered an immense good. Not naturally strong, his slight frame was apt to be shaken by the cough that finally killed him. His work was constant during the week, but on the Sunday he would sit in the morning daily with his Bible before him, and during the day would walk and talk, and enjoy society. He was most sociable, and was full of fun and good spirits. Tenacious of his religious views, he was tolerant, and had seen far too much of the world to expect all men to be cut on one pattern, bodily or spiritual, and the London Presbyterian Churches knew him well. A fifty-pound cheque was always at hand for them if they needed it, and his gifts of money were often very large. He loved to give secretly, and one of his last injunctions was with regard to a present, 'Do not let my name appear.' His chief delight was the Book of Psalms; and indeed, he disliked to have anything else sung at worship. When twitted about this he was always most good-natured, but would say, 'Aye, there's nothing like David's Psalms. 'Strange,' he said the other day, 'that I should have been stricken down just at the three score and ten!' A most constant friend, he would not let drop anyone because he heard evil of him. Rather would he tell him straight out what he thought of him, if there were occasion to do so. In dress he was neatness itself. Always upright in carriage, his keen blue eyes were most observant in their expression. He would say of artists: 'They can't manage my nose;' but the nose was a very well formed one, of fine outline, with clear cut nostrils, and its prominence was relieved by a firm mouth and chin. His hair,



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to him is the fixed resolve that slavery shall cease in Central Africa, and that can only be carried out by the manful facing of responsibilities, from which we cannot in honor shrink—responsibilities which, like other dangers, become the less formidable as we grapple with them. Were danger, indeed, alone to be thought of, there is far more peril in refusing to take our part in concert with European nations and our own Colonies than in taking our place in line with them. Sir William Mackinnon believed that courage and honor pay—an old-fashioned belief, perhaps, but one his friends will certainly see triumphant in

go with commercial enterprise; that the one is unselfish, the other selfish. Does history confirm this, or is it not the case that wherever commerce has extended there, also, the central influence which directs the State which sends the merchants, insists on its policy? Can British commerce dominate any country and slavery survive? Let those who decry commerce answer this question, and point to any region which has not been benefited by our advent? They who affect to despise any high endeavors, imputing sordid motives and so hold aloof, have to show how else this object they profess to desire can be