

BIOGRAPHY OF

perhaps more than the average of intelligence, and was in possession of certain traits of character which were invaluable. We have no intention of belittling his great natural abilities. What we would point out is that his success was not due entirely to the possession of these but to the use he made of them. There are hosts of men that have just as strong a body, just as good a mind, who are, indeed, more brilliantly gifted in many ways, and yet, if they were put down where he was, would not have attained the position which he reached. To young men who are ambitious of success the study of his life is valuable, all the more, because it is not so much a case of genius and extraordinary powers as it is an example of what can be done by the persistent following of the most commonplace maxims and the most homely virtues. There was a kind of monastic simplicity about the man, a directness of speech and purpose, a force of will, a kind of common sense optimism, and a large and judicial and impersonal way of looking at things which were the fruits of experience and discipline and culture. He was master of himself and in that self-mastery lies much of the secret of his great career. He himself has told us some of the things he deemed essential, some of the rules by which his life was governed. It is worth while to glance at a few of these. A young man, starting out in his life's enterprise, would do well to pay attention to these rugged maxims drawn from a big man's experience. Lord Stratheona had many opportunities of ad-