

"An inheritor of the promise"

Born within sight of the Glen, yet denied admission to it in his early boyhood, Mr Carnegie grew up in full sympathy with the popular idea and claim. "We inherit," says Carlyle, "not life only but all the garniture and form of life; and work and speak, and even think and feel as our fathers and primeval grandfathers from the beginning have given it us." The author of "The Gospel of Wealth" comes from a Dunfermline stock who valued integrity of character and mental and moral culture even more than wealth. His ancestors were daring and steadfast friends of freedom when the advocacy of Liberal principles involved the risk of political proscription and persecution. They were lovers and students of books, and made the fullest use of the opportunities open to them for the development of intellectual power. Paying homage to character, they felt that "The man's the gowd"—that the "Honest man though e'er sae poor" was king of men, and that in virtue of that kingship, which would one day assert its supremacy, human liberty and progress were assured. In their own sphere they lived strenuous lives, dreaming dreams, and seeing visions, and passing on from son to son the faith that inspired and ennobled them, making them the truest and the wisest of patriots, but at the same time lovers of humanity as well as of their country, and holding firmly the belief in the brotherhood of man as they anticipated the coming of the time of universal peace and goodwill. In many speeches delivered in Dunfermline and elsewhere, Mr Carnegie has given abundant proof that these Dunfermline reformers and men of far-seeing faith did not preach their "living sermons" in vain. He has entered into their spirit, and in a sense into their works, whose sphere he has enlarged. When on being made an honorary freeman of the City of Glasgow he confessed his honourable love for the land of his birth, pleaded the cause of the patriotism of race, gloried in the advancement of human freedom, counselled the avoidance of war as a criminal folly and

a heinous sin, and proclaimed the gospel of the brotherhood of man, he said nothing that his kinsfolk had not said for generation after generation. Many men who boast of their long descent, and are carefully educated by their parents, find as they enter upon the serious duties of life they have a great deal to unlearn. The Dunfermline weaver in the first half of the nineteenth century bequeathed to his son

*“Stout muscles and a sinewy heart,
A hardy frame, a hardier spirit”*

—a heritage a king might wish to hold in fee. He also transmitted a faith—a working, principle of life which most conspicuously in' Mr Carnegie's case has proved amply sufficient, and unfailingly adaptive, as he has fought his battle in the world's bivouac.