
CHAPTER XXVI

A SCOTTISH EMPIRE-BUILDER—LORD STRATHCONA

IN our last chapter we dealt with authors of the Canadian West. We are in the habit of classing them as men of thought. While Scotland has produced a full quota of men and women of this class, the land of brown heath has probably been even more celebrated for its men of action, as our frequent portraiture has already shown. Along with such men as Sir Alexander Mackenzie, Lord Selkirk, and Sir George Simpson we may class Lord Strathcona. It was by no accident that Donald Alexander Smith, the Lord Strathcona of subsequent years, became a fur trader and a prominent Factor in the Hudson's Bay Company and Rupert's Land. He was related to Peter and Cuthbert Grant on his father, Alexander Smith's, side and on his mother's side to the famous brothers John and James Stuart, of the North-West Fur Company, of whom we have written. Donald Smith was born in Forres, in Morayshire, in 1820, and received a good education for the time. Filled with the tales of the fur trade told by his relations on their return

