

**WITH SOUTH SEA  
FOLK: A  
MISSIONARY STORY**

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With South Sea Folk: A Missionary Story by E. Theodora Crosby

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**E. THEODORA CROSBY**

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THE LANDING. (Page 79.)

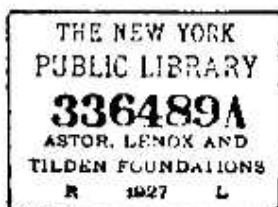
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A MISSIONARY STORY

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BOSTON  
**The Pilgrim Press**  
CHICAGO



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ROY W.  
J. B. H.  
W. B. H.

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# WITH SOUTH SEA FOLK

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## CHAPTER I

### PROS AND CONS

We are living, we are dwelling,  
In a grand and awful time,  
In an age on ages telling;  
To be living is sublime.

"I CANNOT understand why you want to go so far away," said Emily, impatiently; "there are heathen enough nearer home to satisfy the most exacting mortal!"

"Margaret knows that without your telling her," said Eleanor. "Remember, she has lived more than twenty years in the bosom of the Graham family, and this alone would be a liberal education! I say, Meg, how do you propose beginning on the little savages? Shall you use the same arguments on them you used on me in teaching my young ideas to shoot? I mean the gentle suasion of external objects impelled by a gentle temp"—

"Eleanor, be quiet!" interrupted the older sister. "That is not fair. I wish you would learn to control that tongue of yours as well as Margaret controls her temper!"

"I think it is time for me to go," said the girl, ignoring the reproof. And in a few moments she was heard running down-stairs gaily singing:

"Meg's heathen lives over the ocean,  
Meg's heathen lives over the sea,  
Meg's heathen lives over the ocean,  
She's going, O heathen, to thee!"

The sisters looked at each other and laughed a little, then became serious.

"I know it must seem strange for me to think of such a thing," said Margaret, "but I have always wanted to do just this. It was one of my dreams, even when I was a schoolgirl, that if I ever became a Christian, I would be a missionary. And then, after I became a Christian, I still wanted to be a missionary, if I ever became good enough. And now," she added, wistfully, "I do so want to go! When the opportunity came, I did not think at all of being good enough. I would not dare go, if I stopped for that. I know I am not good. But I want to be, and I do think I could help the poor people there a little!"

"Of course you can, you dear child! I was not thinking of your shortcomings, by any means. I fancy missionaries are much the same as other