

**MISSIONARY
PATHFINDERS:
PRESBYTERIAN LABORERS
AT HOME AND ABROAD**

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Missionary Pathfinders: Presbyterian Laborers at Home and Abroad by W. S. MacTavish

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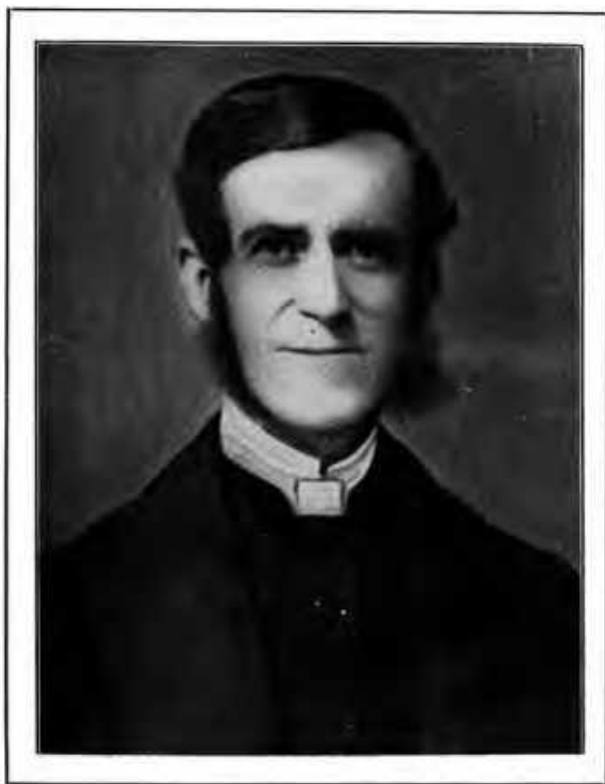
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DR. JOHN GIDDIE

Missionary Pathfinders

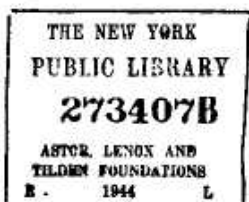
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HOME AND ABROAD

Edited by
Rev. W. S. MacTavish, B.D., Ph.D.



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PREFACE

Interest in Mission Study ought to be maintained. To keep it constantly aroused suitable provision must be made for it. The first requisite is a text book. What more helpful or fascinating course of study could be provided than that which is furnished by these brief biographies? These life stories tell of heroic, self-denying services rendered in this country and in lands afar. The young people who read them should surely feel that they are "the heirs of as noble deeds as were ever done 'neath the all-seeing sun"; that they should make the most of the heritage, and that they should prove themselves worthy successors of those noble souls whose characters are here portrayed.

The aims of the Committee when selecting subjects for treatment were to deal with each outstanding feature of our Church's work; and to pass under review the various fields in which our Church is laboring. These aims are, at least, measurably realized in the following pages. Possibly another committee would have selected different subjects, but it is only fair to say that the subjects herein treated were chosen after earnest and careful deliberation.

Collected by Exchange 7 Mar. 1948

Cordial thanks are due the writers who have contributed articles to this work, and to the Foreign Mission Committee, the Committee on Sabbath School Publications, and the Westminster Company for cuts kindly loaned.

May this little volume stimulate and develop among the young people of our Church such an interest in Mission Study and such a love of Mission Work that they shall play well their part in the great work of world-wide evangelization.

W. S. MAC TAVISH.

Kingston, November, 1906.

INTRODUCTION

VALUE OF MISSIONARY BIOGRAPHY.

REV. W. S. MAC TAVISH, B.D., PH. D.

"Lives of great men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime
And departing, leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of time."

But has missionary biography a special value? If so, what is it? Whether we can claim that it is of more than ordinary value or not, we can at least believe that when it is properly written there is nothing higher in the line of biography; because it tells of whole-hearted consecration to the service of Christ, of implicit faith in the divine leadership, of an absolute surrender of the will to God's will, of patient and painstaking labors, of heroic and self-denying services, and of earnest devotion to duty. If, as the poet maintained, we become a part of all we meet, then what we meet in the life-stories of God's honored missionary servants should make us earnest, devoted, diligent, self-denying. Henry Martyn was much impressed as he read the memoirs of David Brainard, and James Hannington's devotion was kindled by reading the story of the lives of Lieutenant Shergold and Mr. T. O'Neill, of the Uganda mission. Quite frequently, indeed, when reading the story of missionary endeavor have we found that those who went to the foreign field

were prompted to do so through the reading of missionary biography. One could wish that some of the young people who read the following brief memoirs might be induced to give themselves to foreign mission work.

The reading of missionary biography should awaken a spirit of heroism and self-denial. When we read of Alexander MacKay refusing to accept a lucrative appointment that he might give his life to Christ in Africa; when we read of the younger Gordon offering to go to the field where his brother had been martyred by cruel cannibals; when we read of Livingston suffering no less than thirty attacks of fever when prosecuting his labors in the "Dark Continent"; when we read of Bishop Hannington calmly singing "Safe in the Arms of Jesus" when he believed he was about to be murdered; when we read of Dr. G. L. MacKay, with unflinching courage, meeting the head-hunters of Formosa; when we read of John Eliot, a missionary to the North American Indians, defying those who threatened him, surely we must have a sluggish disposition and a lethargic temperament if we are not prompted to deny ourselves something for our dear Master's sake.

Missionary biography emphasizes the need of faith and patience in our work. Truly has it been said, "Continents like America are not converted in a day, nor in a year, nor in the lifetime of the oldest man." Just as Alexander MacKay was setting out for Uganda, he had a brief conversation with Robert Moffat. The young man asked the veteran what the chief qualification was for a missionary in Africa, and Moffat, with a knowing

