

**MY CHILD-LIFE IN
BURMAH; OR,
RECOLLECTIONS AND
INCIDENTS, PP. 1-170**

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My Child-Life in Burmah; Or, Recollections and Incidents, pp. 1-170 by Olive Jennie Bixby

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OLIVE JENNIE BIXBY

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MY EARLY HOME.

MY
CHILD-LIFE IN BURMAH;
OR,
Recollections and Incidents.

OLIVE JENNIE BIXBY.

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PROVIDENCE, R.I.

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INTRODUCTION.

To the literature of Christian missions in foreign lands, there have been added of late frequent and excellent contributions. It is a cheering fact, that the number of those who read books treating of heathen communities, and of the labors, the struggles, and the achievements of the heroic men and women who have been and are now engaged in the noble work of propagating the gospel of Christ in unevangelized countries, is being rapidly multiplied. The geography, the topography, and the natural productions of the lands to which missionaries, in increasing numbers, are being sent from Christian countries; the political governments, the social customs, the home life, the moral condition, the religious worship, and the spiritual destitution of the dominant nations and numerous subject tribes among whom missions are being planted,—are more extensively and far better known to-day than ever before. As a result, there is a more prevalent, intelligent, and fervid zeal among Christians in Christian lands, to enlighten and save the benighted and perishing millions of souls in

heathen lands. Let such books be multiplied and read, let such knowledge as they convey be more widely and rapidly disseminated in Christian churches and family circles at home, and we may confidently anticipate, as the outcome of an advancing acquaintance with missions, a more general, vigorous, and efficient prosecution of the grand work of the world's evangelization.

The manuscript of this unpretentious volume, now to be sent forth on its errand of instruction and usefulness, was placed in my hands by its author, with the request that I would examine it; and, if upon examination I should think it worthy of publication, she would have me write for it an introduction. The manuscript I have read through with unabating interest; and it gives me unfeigned pleasure to perform the slight service which has been asked of me.

The writer, who here tells the story of her childhood passed with her worthy missionary parents in Burmah, presents herself before the public in the capacity of an author, with very great hesitation. It is simple justice to say in her behalf, that she has found it difficult to overcome her reluctance to prepare this narrative for publication. She has braced herself to the task under appeals and encouragement from friends, who heard her read, at a woman's missionary meeting, a brief paper in which she simply attempted to give a few reminiscences of her early life among a heathen people. Those friends felt persuaded that,

with such amplification as that paper was capable of receiving at her hands, she could make a book that was much needed, and might be eminently attractive and useful in Sunday schools and family circles. Thus prompted to extend her effort in that direction, and encouraged to hope that she might render some valuable service to the cause of missions, she proceeded to make a larger draft upon her memory, and to call up such scenes and incidents in her child-life in Burmah as are found described in the following pages. She has, we think, performed the task, undertaken at the solicitation of others, with admirable simplicity and directness. In a style unaffected and lucid, she presents simple facts, making no attempt to attain to the romantic and sensational, though that were easy and allowable with such materials as she had at her command. But she gives us a map instead of a painted landscape. Macaulay, contrasting two methods of writing history, remarks, "The picture, though it places the country before us, does not enable us to ascertain with accuracy the dimensions, the distances, and the angles." The map, he proceeds to say, "presents no scene to the imagination, but it gives us exact information as to the bearings of the various points, and is a more useful companion to the traveller or the general than the painted landscape could be." The author of this book on "MY CHILDHOOD" is evidently and supremely intent on presenting her readers with "exact information," aiming at verity, simplicity and

usefulness, rather than embellishment, picturesqueness, and fascination. But we venture to say that all who shall begin to read this book will continue to read to the close. It deserves, and we hope it will have, a wide circulation.

W. S. MCKENZIE,
District Secretary, A. B. M. U.

BOSTON, June 22, 1880.