

**ISABELLA
THOBURN**

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Isabella Thoburn by William F. Oldham

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WILLIAM F. OLDHAM

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Isabella Thoburn

William F. Oldham

"The women that publish the tidings are a great host"

Jennings & Pyc
Chicago

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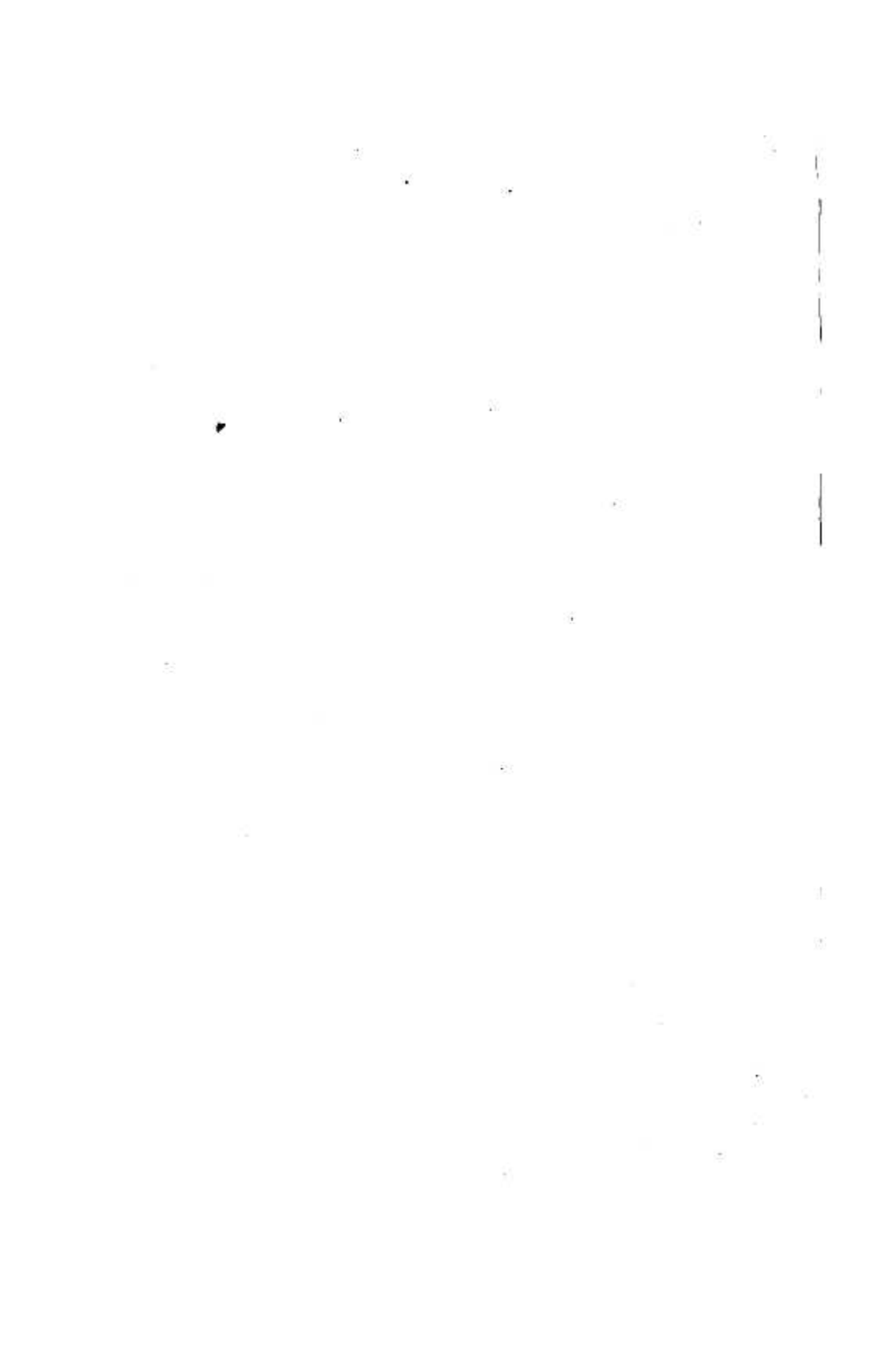
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A BROTHER'S TRIBUTE

BISHOP J. M. THOBURN

My sister was an exceptional woman, one among ten thousand. Her strong character was notable for its simplicity. Her splendid courage was in striking contrast with her quietness of spirit. She was conservative by instinct and progressive from conviction. She was perfectly calm in times of storm and always confident in the face of disaster. Her faith was like a clear evidence, her hope like an assurance of things not seen. Her absolute devotion to the welfare of those who seemed to be thrown in her way was simply Christ-like. Would to God that a thousand young women of like spirit might be raised up for the splendid opportunities which are now opening up before the Church!

M312244



Isabella Thoburn

Christian—Teacher—Missionary

1840-1901

SCOTCH-IRISH ANCESTRY.—I. *The Thoburns in Ireland.*—The Scotch-Irish are held in high esteem in America. So marked is this esteem that the average Protestant Irish family, when it begins to prosper, makes minute search for the dash of Scotch blood that is supposed to greatly enrich it and secure the family in popular esteem. The Thoburns were originally Scotch, probably sprung from Scandinavian ancestors. In the seventeenth century a portion of the family moved to the neighborhood of Belfast, Ireland. Here early in the last century one of the Thorburns, whose name by Irish attrition had come to be Thoburn, married Miss Crawford, and together they emigrated to the United States,—that "Beulah Land" toward which Irish eyes have looked longingly for a hundred years and never more eagerly than now.

2. *On reaching America* in 1825 the Thoburns were attracted to Eastern Ohio, where they settled on a farm near St. Clairsville. Ohio is one of the remarkable States of the Union, for here the severer culture of the older East meets the expansive and virile energy of the younger West. From this State there has come a larger proportion of the commanding men and women of the Republic than its mere numbers would lead one to expect. The Ohio man is prominent in State and Church, and the Ohio woman is in evidence everywhere.

OHIO HOMES AND SCHOOLS.—I. *The Thoburn Family*.—It was in the stimulating religious atmosphere of this great state that the Thoburn children were born and reared. There were ten of them, for this was one of those healthy, old-fashioned families that did not tend to disappearance in a generation or two. Five boys and five girls made the Thoburn home a bustling, busy place. Isabella was the ninth child and the youngest daughter but one. She was born March 9, 1840. All of the children have given a good account of themselves in life. Of the sisters, two have been much in the eye of the Methodist Episcopal Church, because of their wide public service in the woman's missionary activities of that denomination. Mrs. J. R. Mills is now the Conference Secretary of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society of the East Ohio Con-