GIST; A HAND-BOOK OF MISSIONARY INFORMATION, PRE-EMINENTLY FOR USE IN YOUNG WOMEN'S CIRCLES

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Gist; a hand-book of missionary information, pre-eminently for use in young women's circles by Lilly Ryder Gracey

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LILLY RYDER GRACEY

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GIST

A

HAND-BOOK OF MISSIONARY INFORMATION

PRE-EMINENTLY FOR USE IN YOUNG WOMEN'S CIRCLES

COMPLED AND EDITED BY

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GIST.

MISSIONS.

The spirit of Missions is the spirit of our Master—the very genius of true religion.

-DR. LIVINGSTONE.

N + 16

If the mi-sionaries sent out by every Protestant society be distributed among the 1,009,000,000 of the pagan world, there is but one missionary to each 200,000.

In the United States there is a gospel minister to every 800 people. But two cents of every dollar contributed for benevolence go abroad, and only two and one-half per cent of the ministers.

Dr + 16

The total number of Christian workers of all kinds in the United States—embracing ordained ministers, lay preachers, women workers, and Sunday-school officers and teachers—is 1,218,025; or one Christian worker to each forty-eight persons. The total number of all authorized workers in the foreign field, whether foreign or native, is 37,704; or one worker to each 31,322 persons.

We have one Protestant Christian to each five persons; in the foreign field there is one Protestant Christian to each 1,566 persons.

N 4 16

"It is clear," says the London Times, "that Missions to foreign lauds are at once the most beneficent and the most disinterested institutions known among men." "Blot out the missionary idea," says another exchange, "and you lose the key of the Bible. Destroy all other proofs of its Divine authorship, save the effect of the gospel on the degraded African, South Sea Islander, or the Fuegian, and you will need no more convincing argument. We want to read the Scriptures to-day with the addition of the Acts of the Apostles down in Africa, and over in India and China, in Japan, in Korea, and Upper Greenland."

"I was thinking the other day," writes a missionary, "whether I could find out one single force, acting for the benefit of the human race, that did not come from the Cross—that had not its origin from the Cross. I can not find one. Who discovered the interior world of Africa, and set in motion the intellect of that people? Who solved the problem of preaching liberty to the women of India? Who first brought into modern geography the hidden land and rivers of China, and opened for the enrichment of commerce the greatest empire of the East? Who first dared the cannibal regions, and

converted men whose appetite was for blood? Missionaries."

We may challenge the history of the world to produce instances of heroism more exalted or more heart-stirring than in many cases of the pioneer missionaries to foreign and savage lands.

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Every one knows that Missions have made trade possible and safe with many people otherwise inaccessible; that, directly or indirectly, they benefit the world in many ways. Commerce, science, and earthly governments have acknowledged their obligations to the missionary, and secular testimony is seen in the aid given to various branches of knowledge. "Missionary journals are at the bottom of a large part of that multifarious knowledge," says an authority, "which permits the present age to call itself the age of intelligence."

On the ground of statistical data, it has been calculated that the traffic originated by means of mission-work repays tenfold the capital expended. Take as an illustration: Among the Kurumans, in Africa, where scarcely a pocket-handkerchief or a string of beads was bought before mission-work began, English goods are now sold every year to the value of half a million dollars.

To the transforming power of Christianity there is not a race but what pays its tribute. Out of the cannibals of the Pacific, the Eskimos of the frozen