

**THE MISSIONARY'S
DAUGHTER: A MEMOIR OF
LUCY GOODALE THURSTON,
OF THE SANDWICH ISLANDS**

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The missionary's daughter: a memoir of Lucy Goodale Thurston, of the Sandwich Islands by
Lucy Goodale Thurston

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*"Why brought here to wither,
But to fulfil some high behest of heaven?"*

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PREFACE.

ABOUT one year ago, God, in his providence, brought to this country the child of one of our oldest missionaries in the far off isles of the seas. She was among the first of the children of the missionaries who have been retained at a missionary station to so mature an age; and notwithstanding all the disadvantages of her isolated situation, attained a high degree of mental cultivation; and gave, living and dying, evidence of sincere piety.

At the age of seventeen she landed upon our shores, with the expectation of enjoying, for a season, the advantages of the society and institutions of Christian America; but within three weeks after the time of her arrival, she found a place in our sepulchres.

The brief obituary notice of this young person, published a short time after her death, in the New

York Observer, excited very general interest, and the request was immediately made from various directions, by members of the American Board, and other friends of missions, that a more extended memoir might be given to the public. The writer, however, would never have undertaken its preparation but at the suggestion of Rev. Dr. Anderson, the Secretary of the Board who has charge of the foreign department, who was of the opinion that such a memoir would not only subserve the cause of youthful piety, but have a favorable bearing on the cause of missions.

It has not been the object of the writer to describe a child of unusual powers of mind or attainments in piety, nor to present a narrative of a remarkable or uncommon character; but to give the simple history of a missionary's child, reared at a missionary station in one of the darkest corners of the earth, to show what may be accomplished with the blessing of God by intelligent Christian parents, even when deprived of many of those facilities which are usually deemed essential in the education of children; and especially to call up, in the minds of both parents and children, a deeper interest in the families of missionaries, and

more ardent desires for the salvation of the heathen.

What Lucy Thurston was, and what she became in the peculiar circumstances of her situation, is here presented chiefly in her own language, by extracts from her journal and letters. Thus, being dead, she yet speaketh. If her example should inculcate any new lessons of meekness, humility, and loveliness of deportment; if it should impress upon the minds of any of the youth of our land the importance and blessedness of early piety, or inspire any one of them with a love for the missionary cause, she will not speak in vain. And if her brief history should throw any light upon the question, "How are the children of missionaries to be educated?" and awaken in the hearts of any of God's people stronger sympathies for their missionary brethren, or a deeper sense of their obligations to labor and pray, and give of their substance, "that the kingdom of glory may be hastened," the writer will ever rejoice, that by a peculiar providence she was permitted to stand by the dying bed of "the missionary's daughter."

For the benefit of those into whose hands this book may fall, and who may not be familiar with

the history of the Sandwich Island mission, a brief sketch of the early history of these islands, and of the introduction and progress of Christianity upon them, is prefixed to the memoir.

March 1, 1842.

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