

**BISHOP HANNINGTON:
THE LIFE AND
ADVENTURES OF A
MISSIONARY HERO**

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Bishop Hannington: the life and adventures of a missionary hero by William Grinton Berry

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WILLIAM GRINTON BERRY

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PREFACE



ABOUT a third of this little book is the work of Bishop Hannington himself. A most graphic, racy, and altogether charming volume entitled *Peril and Adventure in Central Africa*, consisting of a number of letters, with humorous illustrations, from the Bishop to his nephews in England, was published some years ago by the Religious Tract Society. A considerable portion of these letters has been incorporated in this book. The only regret of the reader will be that there is not more material from the vivid and glowing pen of the Bishop himself.

The compiler of this volume desires to acknowledge his special obligations to *James Hannington : A History of His Life and Work*, by the Rev. E. C. Dawson, M.A. ; *The Wonderful Story of Uganda*, by the Rev. J. D. Mullins, M.A. ; *The History of the Church Missionary Society*, in three volumes, by Mr. Eugene Stock ; and the annual reports of the

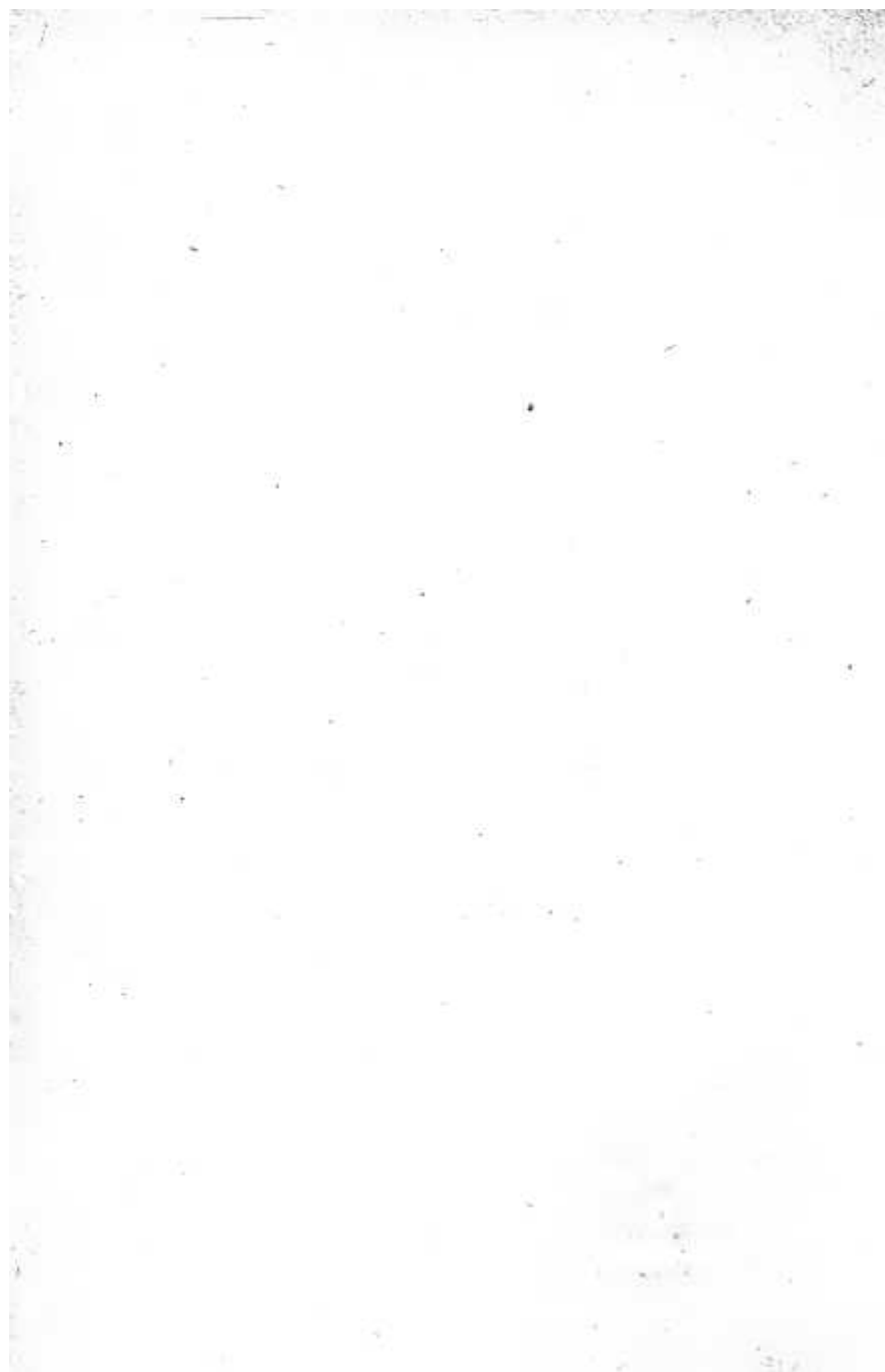
C.M.S. Mr. Dawson's work is on a larger scale and more expensive than this little book. The object of the present compiler has been to produce a volume interesting to all the friends and supporters of missionary work, and specially adapted for wide-spread circulation among the older members of Sunday Schools, in Bible Classes, Christian Endeavour Societies, and kindred organisations. The story which it has to tell is that of one of the most thrilling campaigns of the Gospel warfare in heathen lands.

W. GRINTON BERRY.

CONTENTS



CHAP.	PAGE
I. 'A GENTLEMAN AT LARGE'	1
II. THE STORY OF HANNINGTON'S CONVERSION	13
III. A FAITHFUL MINISTER OF THE WORD	18
IV. THE EARLY HISTORY OF THE UGANDA MISSION	33
V. AN ADVENTUROUS JOURNEY: HANNINGTON'S NARRATIVE	42
VI. AT THE GREAT LAKE: HANNINGTON'S NARRATIVE CONTINUED	86
VII. THE DARKER COLOURS OF THE PICTURE	117
VIII. BISHOP OF EASTERN EQUATORIAL AFRICA	124
IX. THE LAST JOURNEY	138
X. WHAT HAD HAPPENED IN UGANDA.	156
XI. THE MARTYRDOM OF BISHOP HANNINGTON	163
XII. THE STORY OF UGANDA SINCE HANNINGTON'S DEATH	174
THE RELIGIOUS TRACT SOCIETY AND THE UGANDA MISSION	210



BISHOP HANNINGTON



Chapter I

'A GENTLEMAN AT LARGE'

A headstrong, passionate Boy—'Mad Jim'—Cardinals and Chocolate Shops—His Mother's Influence—Becomes interested in Religion—Studying for the Ministry—His Mother's Death—Ordination.

JAMES HANNINGTON—appointed in the providence of God to a conspicuous place in the noble army of martyrs—was born on September 3, 1847, at Hurstpierpoint, a pretty little village in Sussex, some eight miles north-east of Brighton. He was the eighth child of his father, Charles Smith Hannington, who had a big drapery business in Brighton, and had just bought the property of St. George's at Hurstpierpoint.

The prosperity which the family enjoyed had been established by Smith Hannington, the grandfather of the future Bishop, who is described as a shrewd man of business who never wanted a holiday and never thought that other people wanted

one,' upright and stern, greatly loved and also greatly feared. The father was a man of somewhat similar temperament: he ruled his children with a firm hand, and was not sparing, when occasion rose, with the rod of correction.

James, 'a pickle of a boy,' always in scrapes, often emerging from them with impunity, sometimes not, was tenderly devoted, as a boy and always, to his mother, 'the gentlest mother, the sweetest, dearest mother that ever lived.' Her darling hand had always power to soothe him.

James was a headstrong, passionate boy, with a marked individuality, and perfectly fearless. His friend and biographer, Mr. Dawson, records how at the age of seven he clambered unnoticed up the mast of his father's yacht and was at last discovered high aloft, suspended on some projection by the seat of his trousers!

From very early he possessed a *commanding*—we do not say imperious—personality. At eleven years of age he made his first yachting trip with his elder brother in a hired cutter, and presently we discover him, with the calmest assurance, rebuking the captain and owner for broaching the wine locker and conniving at the projected theft of the cutter's sole silver spoon.

In one of his mad pranks, an attempt to blow up a wasp's nest by gunpowder, James lost the thumb of his left hand. It was by the mention of this personal defect, years afterwards, that