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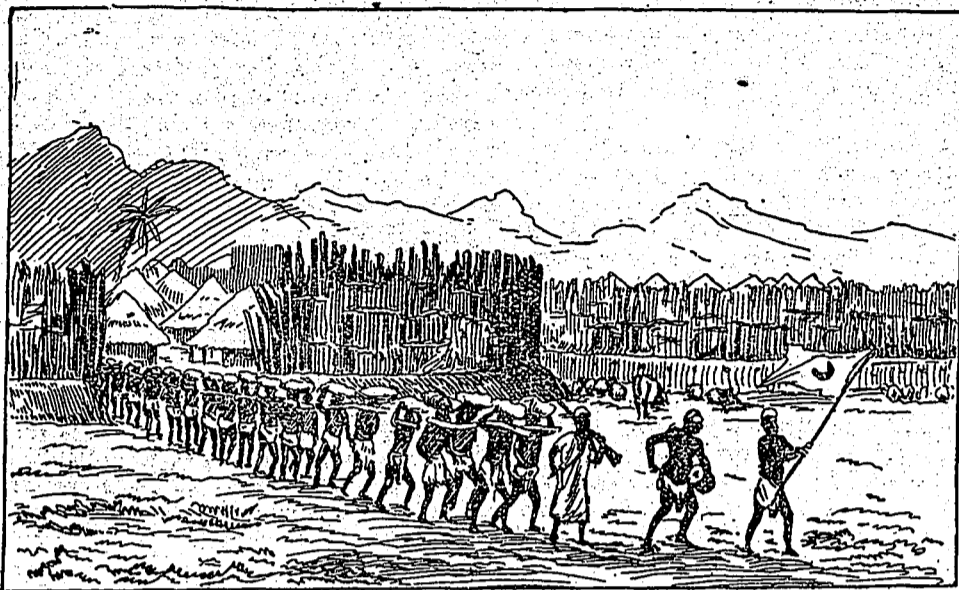
## A Hero of the Dark Continent

A hero at home will be a hero abroad. He who is aglow with Christian devotion and courage in college, in the service of the church, and amid the allurements of modern society, will be a brave missionary. Such a one was Dr. William Affleck Scott, who has fought a good fight and won the victory after only six years of warfare in Africa; following the lead of his great Captain to an early death. He was born in 1862, in the city of Edinburgh, and there received his school, university, and professional training.

His childhood was spent in a happy Christian home and under the care of a very bright and loving mother. In his high-school days he was the leader in the studies of his class and the hero of the whole school; a born athlete, and full of boisterous fun. He was captain of the foot-ball club, and had such physical endurance that a walk of twenty miles was only a tonic to him. If a comrade got tired, Scott promptly mounted him upon his back for a mile or two. He also developed remarkable mechanical gifts, and was brimful of inventions. All the while, as his class fellows testify, he raised the tone of the whole school by the influence of his manly and honorable character.

The source of this moral strength is indicated by an entry found in a notebook, written when he was sixteen: 'It is very pleasant when one is bothered with foot-ball to rest one's knees and feel Christ put his hand on one's head.' Another entry says: 'I have been reading the life of Livingstone, and am beginning to kindle. . . . The need abroad is a hundredfold greater than the need at home; in fact the need at home is the need abroad, though some people shut their eyes to the fact; and surely we are sent into this world to fill some place where there is need for us, and not to jostle each other.'

During his university life Scott carefully



A SLAVE CARAVAN IN CENTRAL AFRICA.

His artistic and vocal gifts became also an important factor in a city mission work, which, as president of the young men's guild and a leader in the parish work of Greenside, Edinburgh, he carried on vigorously side by side with his studies. He had an evening-school class of the worst boys in the neighborhood, to whom he became a matchless hero and model, and also a dear brother and friend in need. A friend maintains that in one year when he earned \$750 he spent \$80 upon himself and gave the rest away.

From the university Scott entered directly upon the courses of theological and medical study which were to fit him for the life of a missionary physician in Africa, a career upon which he had now decided. This double work did not hinder the energetic pursuit of his city mission objects. He organized, in a lower stratum of the population

Marching in good order to the Waverly Station, and playing a simple air with great spirit. Among them he discovered Scott, who was off with his boys for a day in the country. Accustomed to the best society in the city, with friends to be met at every turn, and a prominent athlete, known to everybody as such, he had certainly attained a complete self-effacement. To see him, and the Holy Spirit working in him, made one as sure of the existence of that Person in the Godhead as of the existence of Arthur's Seat. So says a friend. When the time came to offer himself as a missionary, the finances of the Church of Scotland Missionary Society forbade sending him for some years. Then he determined to go to Africa in spite of the Church, if not for her. He could work his passage out as a ship's surgeon, and afterwards pick up his own living. Ultimately private individuals guaranteed him a salary of \$750, and he sailed second-class, for Blantyre in the Shire Highlands of British Central Africa, in 1889, leaving his promised wife to follow when he should have become permanently settled. He was quickly at home with the natives. He wrote: 'Those horrid photographs give no idea of them. You would think that they were uglier than ugly. The native African is often a very beautiful creature.'

Now began Dr. Scott's manifold missionary activities—language study, station duty at Blantyre, medical work near and far, and long evangelistic journeys, on foot; for he quickly renounced machilas in disgust, walking swiftly into camp, with his carriers toiling on far behind, in vain attempts to keep up with him. He once walked one hundred miles in two days, to attend a patient, arriving in perfect condition. In two years he sent home for publication a translation of 'Pilgrim's Progress.' His Sunday services when at Blantyre were as follows: At six o'clock breakfast, often followed by a mile walk to visit patients at Mondala; at seven, morning service; at half-past seven, crowds of patients in his surgery; at half-past eight, the native church service; at half-past ten, the English church service, at which he preached in turn. After dinner he set off to his own parish, the nearest point of which was four miles away, in four villages of



THE SCOTCH MISSION STATION AT BLANTYRE.

cultivated his fine tenor voice, and his remarkable gift for rapid sketching in water-colors. It soon became necessary for him to support himself entirely, which he did by microscopic drawings for the illustration of surgical books, as well as by private tuition.

than any yet reached, a mission football club and a flute band. He could not himself play the flute, but he learned, arranged the music, and copied it himself for the different instruments. One morning a friend of his saw a large flute band of seeming ragamuffins,