

medan ladies present. The President was the Maharani of Baroda, who passed through Toronto last summer with her husband. After she had spoken, the Maharani of Cooh Behar spoke briefly, encouraging the women of all castes to educate themselves to be true help-mates to their husbands, and fit mentors to the next and greater generation of India. Mrs. Sarojini Naidu spoke of the great unity and co-operation of all classes, creeds and castes, which had resulted in the representatives of all religions being gathered there that day in all harmony and sisterly love. After other addresses and the reading of several papers the Conference was resolved into a social gathering, and refreshments were served. All were enthusiastic over the great success of the meeting.

JOHN CRAIG.

### JOHN G. PATON.

By Rev. Ernest Geo. W. Wesley.

Born in the county of Dumfries, Scotland, May 24, 1824, and still living as one of the most heroic, faith-impelled, faith-exemplifying, faith-defended missionaries of any age, Dr. Paton's autobiography should be read by all who desire to know of the triumphs of Christian faith. All the writer of this article can hope to accomplish is that he may lead many to read the story of the work of God through Dr. Paton and his associates.

The parents of Mr. Paton were fairly well to do, his father being a stocking weaver, to which trade their son was early apprenticed. Dr. Paton's grandfather, once a sailor on a British man-of-war, bore to his dying day the scar of a sword cut inflicted by Paul Jones, by whom he was once taken prisoner.

At an early age John G. Paton gave his heart to Christ and heard the call of the Spirit to the ministry of the cross. Entering into Glasgow city missionary work, studying evenings (free education being part of his salary), he soon displayed the earnestness, courage, faith and devotion which ever characterized him. At the end of ten years he and his roommate, Joseph Copeland, offered themselves to the Reformed Presbyterian Board for missionary work in the New Hebrides mission, already consecrated to God by the blood of martyrs. These two were ordained March 23, 1858, and sailed for Melbourne, Australia, the following April, reaching their field, Aneityum, Aug. 30, of the same year, to be most cordially welcomed by Messrs. Geddie, Inglis and Mathieson, who had

preceded them by several years. Port Resolution, Tanna, was assigned to Mr. Paton, an island about forty miles from Aneityum, and at once occupied.

The seeming hopelessness of the work is stated in Dr. Paton's autobiography: "My first impressions drove me almost to despair." Trial after trial came to test and prove the man, the Christian. March 3, 1859, Mrs. Paton died and on March 20 his infant son. "The darkness of midnight now descended upon me; stunned by the dreadful loss, my reason seemed to be almost giving way. I buried my dead with my own hands. But for the fellowship of Jesus I must have died beside that lonely grave."

During the first months Mr. Paton's life was lived from day to day, often from hour to hour, in constant expectation of martyrdom. The cannibal natives were wholly opposed to the New Worship which meant such a change to them as to awaken all their rage, cruelty and murderous treachery. Dr. Paton tells us the result of those days upon his own spiritual life: "In such circumstances I was led to cling very closely to the Lord Jesus. I had my nearest and dearest glimpses of the face and smile of my blessed Lord while musket, club or spear was levelled at my life." Most wonderful indeed is the record of the forty or fifty miraculous deliverances granted, in each of which the hand of God was strikingly made visible.

The year 1861 opened with renewed trials. Mr. Johnson, one of Mr. Paton's associates, died; then came tidings of the martyrdom of Mr. and Mrs. Gordon at Erromanga; then the incessant plottings of the traders who sought to influence the natives against the missionaries. Just when the war chiefs were preparing to massacre the whole mission the sudden and most providential arrival of a British man-of-war forced peace for a while and effectually counteracted the villainy of the white traders. The peace, however, was but for a brief period. The Tannese, finding that no punishment had been inflicted upon the Erromangas, concluded the English feared and dared not punish. Opposition grew more fierce, threats of murder became louder, so that it was at last decided to abandon Tanna, which was done the next year, the missionaries finding homes on Aneityum with their associates in that mission.

March 11, 1862, Mrs. Mathieson died, her