

Missionary.

Great Missionaries.

DAVID LIVINGSTONE.

In our list of Great Missionaries David Livingstone deserves an honored place, for he was the pioneer in the work of African civilization, as well as one of the bravest and noblest of men. He was born in Blantyre, a small village on the Clyde, about eight miles from Glasgow, March 19th, 1813, of poor but pious parents. To the last he was proud of the class from which he sprang. When the highest in the land were showering compliments on him he was writing to old friends of "my own order, the honest poor," and trying to promote their welfare. At the age of ten young Livingstone earned his first half-crown as a worker in the cotton factory, and expended it in buying a Latin book, with which he pursued his studies at an evening school. During the day he placed his book on the spinning jenny, so that he could catch sentence after sentence as he passed backwards and forwards at his labors. This indicates what sort of man he was. He was determined to obtain an education, and obstacles but spurred him on.

At an early age he determined to become a missionary, and to this end studied both medicine and theology in Glasgow University. During his second year at college he offered himself to the London Missionary Society, with the expectation of going to China. On account of the opium war he was unable to go there, but coming into contact with Robert Moffat, he became greatly interested in South Africa, and finally settled upon that country as the field of his labors.

Livingstone left England in 1840, landed at Capetown after a three months' voyage, and proceeded in a bullock-cart to Kuruman—some 700 miles inland, in the country of the Bechuanas, where Moffat and Hamilton had many years before founded a flourishing mission.

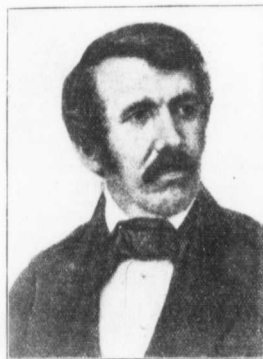
In 1844 he married Mary, a daughter of Robert Moffat, and found her a loyal and courageous helper. In a brief sketch of this kind, it is impossible to follow the great missionary through all his wanderings in Africa. For many years he gave himself to opening up that benighted country to the influences of Christianity and civilization.

Dr. Blaikie gives this picture of Livingstone's active life: He is building houses and schools, cultivating gardens. As a missionary he is holding meetings every other night, preaching on Sundays, and taking such other opportunities as he can find to gain the people to Christ; as a medical man he is dealing with the more difficult cases of disease, those which baffle the native doctors; as a man of science he is taking observations, collecting specimens, thinking out geographical and other problems; as a missionary

statesman he is planning how the actual force might be disposed of to most advantage.

As a discoverer Livingstone rendered services of great value, which were recognized by the Royal Geographical Society when he returned to England. Glasgow University awarded him the degree of LL.D., and a testimonial of £10,000 was raised by public subscription. He was also honored by a private interview with the Queen.

The story of how Stanley sought after Livingstone in the wilds of Africa is too familiar to need rehearsal. Stanley pressed Livingstone to return to England with him in order to recruit his health, but the sturdy traveller determined to complete his exploration of the sources of the Nile before he returned. During his last journeys he suffered terribly from lack of proper food, exhaustion and disease, but his determined spirit carried him through difficulties that would have daunted most men. At times he was so ill that he had to be carried in a litter. During his closing years he gave his



DR. LIVINGSTONE.

energies to rousing public sentiment against the African slave trade, and did much to expose and mitigate its awful evils.

In the heart of Africa he passed away in the year 1873. He was found by his attendants, dead, upon his knees as if engaged in prayer. The body was roughly embalmed, enclosed in a cylinder of bark, enveloped in sailcloth and carried on a pole by his servants to the coast. His funeral took place in Westminster Abbey on the 18th of May, 1874, attended by an immense multitude. Round the open grave stood the representatives of art, science, literature, commerce and nobility.

Few visitors to Westminster Abbey can have failed to notice the large black marble slab on the floor of the nave, near its east end, which bears in letters of brass the following inscription:

"Brought by faithful hands over land and sea, here rests

DAVID LIVINGSTONE

MISSIONARY, TRAVELLER, PHILANTHROPIST.

"Born March 19th, 1813; died May 1st, 1873, at Chetamba's village, Bala. For thirty

years his life was spent in an unwaried effort to evangelize the native races, to explore the undiscovered secrets, to abolish the desolating slave trade of Central Africa, where, with his last words, he wrote: 'All I can add in my solitude is, Heaven's rich blessing come down on every one, American, English, or Turk, who will help to heal this open sore of the world.'

On one edge of the slab are the words:

"Other sheep I have which are not of this fold, then also I must bring, and they shall hear my name."

One of Livingstone's biographers says of him: "Whether we look back on his wonderful life in the light of science, or think of him as a missionary and philanthropist, or regard him merely as an adventurous traveller, we may search history in vain to discover any biography that presents so many points of admiration. Honesty of purpose, firmness, indomitable perseverance, complete self-abnegation, modesty, tender humanity towards the most abject and degraded of mankind, personal piety, not to speak of physical endurance and bravery, so conspicuously marked his character, he may be said to have embodied them all in his own person. As to the results of his life, the fruits of his labors, and the benefit to the world of his example—they are unspeakably valuable."

Interest in Missions.

A Professor of Victoria University says that his first thoughts on awakening, indicate to him where his interests are centered. "Tell me what a man does with his profits, and I will tell you in what he is interested," is a business man's statement. Both these men witness to the Scripture truth, "As a man thinketh in his heart so is he."

Whatever we are praying, or planning for—whatever has first place as a matter of importance in the thought of our hearts will usually have first place, in point of time, in the morning, and will very often be the last thing we think about before we go to sleep. We will not only use the profits, but sometimes will be impelled to deny ourselves and economize in many ways that we may accomplish the desire of our hearts.

Our Saviour's example leaves no doubt regarding his love for the kingdom. He said, "Where a man's treasure is, there will his heart be also. It has been said that the greatest compliment we can pay a friend is to copy or imitate him. We must first study the character to be imitated. Paul says that, beholding or studying Christ, we are changed into His image (2 Cor. 3: 18). To be an image of Christ is not to reach some ideal fixed condition, but it is to be a living imitator, or in other words, give our lives, including thoughts, words, and actions, business (principal and profit), for the salvation of the world. Our Saviour's last command, "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature," as well as his parting words of loving trust and confidence, expressed his full expectation that missions would have first place in his followers' hearts, until they had witnessed in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and unto the uttermost parts of the earth.