

What gives public interest and sensation to any news item from a foreign land? It is its broadly human features, its intimacy of touch with thought and life at home, and its bearing on the fortunes of civilization abroad. And those characteristics belong to incidents and movements in foreign missions just as truly and quite as largely as to news that originates in the secret places of the diplomats, or at the Legations, or in the Foreign Office, or among the traders or capitalists or social nabobs.

(1) I have said that a foreign news item to be interesting must have broadly human features. Every editor knows the newspaper value of the human element in a story. A thing might happen in Nashville to-night, the parties involved might be obscure and hitherto unheard-of, but in the incident there might be condensed and concentrated some of the master passions, some of the universal elements of human nature, and that story would be flashed to New York, to Chicago, to San Francisco, to Toronto, and would be read with intensest interest to-morrow morning by a million people who never saw Nashville or heard of those involved in the story. The human element makes appeal to the human heart and furnishes the essentials of a newspaper story.

So, too, with incidents and movements in China, in India, in Japan, in Africa, and in all the fields of foreign mission enterprise. In every one of those fields new illustrations are supplied of the great forces