

something of Clifton's history and qualifications for the work. The Secretary of the Society had written very appreciatively of Clifton, so that Mr. Willoughby was prepared to find a capable worker in him. There were other letters giving other particulars, so that the young man had received a pretty fair introduction beforehand.

It may be well just here to inform the reader of a few particulars in Clifton's history, which will help materially to an understanding of what follows. He was now twenty-five years of age, and had had a liberal education. He had some private means of his own, sufficient for his own maintenance, so had not been forced to pursue his course gradually, as so many students for the ministry have to do. He was graduated from the University of his Province, and from the Theological school of his denomination regularly, and like his fellow-graduates had invitations to pastorates. But these he declined.

He had turned his attention to the foreign work early in his course, and had shaped his studies with that end in view. In his collegiate course, at a meeting of a society composed of the students of the college, he had read an essay upon Carey's life and work. What seemed to strike his attention most was Carey's study of the world's population, and he could not refrain from making a present survey, comparing the present with the past. Though a great move had been made, he saw that it came far short of attaining its end, for nations were still unevangelized, hundreds of millions had not yet heard the gospel. He found the people of heathen countries roughly estimated at one thousand millions, and reckoning a generation at thirty-three years, he shuddered at the thought that thirty millions must die every year. *Thirty millions* seemed an almost incalculable number. Twenty millions of these would be adults—what about them? Who cared to know their history, who asked about their fate? True, some six thousand missionaries had gone out to these perishing, a host in themselves, but nothing to so vast a people—one missionary to one hundred and fifty thousand heathen. Most of these, moreover, had been sent during the present generation—what then of the fifty