

# THE TORONTO CENTRAL DISTRICT.

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## Rev. J. A. Jackson, S.T.L., M.D.C.M.

WE are glad to be able this month to give our readers a photo-engraving of Dr. Jackson, together with a few facts from his life. In order to do this, however, we have had to delay the issue of the paper a few days, for which we hope this will be a sufficient apology.

Although we already have missionaries supported through the forward movement, Dr. Jackson is the first among those who have been most active in its development to be sent to the field by it; hence we feel this to be a most important point in the history of the work, and a point at which we would do well to stop and lift our hearts in sincere gratitude to God. May we not at the same time add a petition for the safe keeping of him and his companion as they enter upon their work.

With difficulty we obtained from Dr. Jackson the material for the following brief sketch:

Although he enjoyed the inestimable privilege of a Christian home and godly parents, it was not until he was sixteen years of age that he was thoroughly converted. He immediately became a member of the Methodist Church at Parkdale, and soon found scope for active Christian effort in connection with the West-End Branch of the Y.M.C.A., and also in conducting cottage prayer-meetings in connection with his Church.

At this time he was working as a bricklayer, at which occupation he spent eight years—four years as an apprentice and four years at the trade. Something of his Christian character then can be gathered from the fact that several of the men with whom he worked became converted during that time.

From a sense of unfitness for so high a work, for three years he resisted what seemed God's call to preach, but, to use his own words, "finally consented to go to college and fit myself, if not for the ministry, then for better equipment in Christian work in the Church." He spent a winter at Albert College, Belleville, and under the spiritual influence there he made the promise to God that he would follow wherever He should lead. The need for men then led to his appointment as assistant preacher on the Wyevale Circuit. In this work he found great pleasure, but the

following year returned to college, this time to the Wesleyan Theological College in Montreal, from which he graduated three years later, receiving the degree of S.T.L.

It was during his stay in Montreal that he became deeply impressed with the claims of the heathen upon him, and was led to give his life to the missionary work. The two men who most strongly influenced him to this decision were John R. Mott, who was then making his first tour of the Canadian colleges in the interest of the Volunteer Movement, and his much-esteemed professor, the late Dr. Douglas, who declared to him that if he were a young man he would "glory in proclaiming Christ in the distant regions." It was with much reluctance that his friends

gave their consent to his purpose for missionary work, but finally did so when it appeared to be a call from God.

After completing his course in theology, Mr. Jackson was exceedingly anxious to take a full medical training, but the heavy expenses connected with it seemed an insuperable barrier. Notwithstanding this, however, God so opened the way for him that he was able to enter at once upon the course of medical study at Trinity Medical College, and to pursue it continuously until he graduated in April of the present year, taking the full university degree of M.D.C.M., and also the fellowship degree of the college.

In connection with the Campaign work, Dr. Jackson last summer assisted in introducing the movement in a large number of the Leagues in the three Toronto

Districts. He also made a systematic series of visits to the Leagues in Brantford and Bowmanville Districts, both of which adopted the plans and are now working vigorously for missions.

Dr. Jackson will be supported by the Leagues of the Toronto Central District. He expects to start for his field on June 24th, so will probably be on his way there when this article reaches the hands of our subscribers.

H. C. WRINCH.

A missionary in Alaska says: "I find the natives a peculiar people. At times you think you know all about them, and again you know that you do not. While you are trying to study them they are studying you."



REV. J. A. JACKSON, S.T.L., M.D.C.M.