

WHAT WE OWE TO FOREIGN
MISSIONS

It is the fashion in some quarters to scoff at missionaries, to receive their reports with incredulity, to look at them at best as no more than harmless enthusiasts, proper subjects for pity, if not for ridicule. The records of missionary work in South Africa must be a blank page to those by whom such ideas are entertained. We owe it to our missionaries that the whole region has been opened up. Apart from their special service as preachers they have done important work as pioneers of civilization, as geographers as contributors to philological research. Of those that have taken part in this Moffat's name is not the best known. Moffat, it may be said, has labored, and other men have entered into his labour. Livingstone has come after him, has gone beyond him, and has linked his memory forever with the records of the South African Church. Speke and Stanley have become household names where Moffat has been unknown or has been forgotten. In his own simple words it never occurred to him, while working among the Bechuanas, that he should obtain the applause of men. His one care was for those among whom he had cast his lot. He was an enthusiast, of course—a man would be worth little for missionary enterprise if he were not this at all events. But he was an enthusiast with a clear sense of the right means to employ for the accomplishment of his unselfish task. He had a message to deliver of love and of peace, and he must prepare men to receive it by instructing them in the arts of peace. The progress of South Africa has been mainly due men of Moffat's stamp. In him, as in David Livingstone, it is hard to say which character has predominated, that of the missionary proper or that of the teacher and guide. Certain it is that, apart from the special stimulus they felt as proclaimers of the gospel message, they would never have thrown themselves as they did into the work to which their lives were consecrated. It was by no zeal for the spread of civilization on its own account that they passed weary years laboring and teaching among savage tribes, amid dangers of every kind, amid privations of which they themselves made light, but which only a sense of their high spiritual mission could have prompted them to face and undergo. *South Times.*

DAILY SOUL WORK.

Books multiply. One grows dizzy in looking over catalogues of books which are worth reading. The finest thoughts of the purest minds are weekly laid upon our tables. The Bible never had abler expositors of its precious truths; never were its truths applied with more living power to the great idolatries and the organic sins of the race; never was there more vital spiritual force in the world than now, and of course private Christians are more or less upheld and carried forward in this great general current of good; but let each one remember that these splendid and enkindling generalities can never take the place and must never supersede the *daily-home work of his own soul*—secret sins to be cleansed of, weaknesses to be mourned over, closet-prayer engaged in, the word of God self-applied, graces cultivated, temptations struggled against. We cannot go to heaven in masses. Straight is the gate, and each must knock and enter alone.

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