

David Livingstone Centennial, March 19th, 1913

Why and How the 100th Anniversary of His Birth is Being Celebrated

REV. F. C. STEPHENSON, M.D., TORONTO.

"LIVINGSTONE, do you know him? Have you walked and talked with him? How many evenings have you spent in his company? Do you like the people who like him? You say, "Ridiculous question." Why Livingstone was born one hundred years ago, died in Central Africa in 1873, and his body is buried in Westminster Abbey." Do not believe it. "He that liveth and believeth in Me shall never die. Believest thou this?" Livingstone dead! No. On March 19th, 1913, his life-inspiring words will ring out in every English-speaking and in many other lands. Between now and then you will meet Livingstone at every turn. The newspapers and magazines will quote him. The denominational papers will publish his picture, give information about his life and work, and discuss the influence of his life upon the world as well as upon Africa. Livingstone will be everywhere. If you know him you will have the privilege of introducing him to all your friends.

If you are a minister or a local preacher, Livingstone will help you to prepare and deliver one of the best sermons you have ever preached. But be careful! If you associate with Livingstone, you may be forced to adopt some of his life mottoes as yours. Can you say with him, "I will place no value on anything I have or may possess except in relation to the kingdom of Christ"; "If anything will advance the interest of that kingdom it shall be given away or kept, as only by the giving or the keeping of it I shall most promote the glory of Him to whom I owe all my hopes in time and in eternity."

If you are a boy or girl and love stories of adventure, if you like to read about Africa, its wild animals and peculiar people, watch for Livingstone, for he is the prince, yes, the king of story tellers. He tells "really" stories and not "make-believes." His lions are real and he fought them; his snake stories are true for he experienced what he tells. You will ask, "Why didn't he stay home after he had written his great book which made him rich and famous? Why did he spend the money he made by the book in buying boats to navigate the strange rivers and lonely lakes of Africa? Why did he stay in Africa when Stanley was absent to bring him home?" These are some of the things you will wish to know about Livingstone.

Are you a Sunday School teacher? You will be delighted to have your class make the acquaintance of Livingstone. What a privilege to bring Livingstone into his midst. If yours is a class of young men or young women you can invite them to come to your home for eight evenings to study the Livingstone edition of "Daybreak in the Dark Continent." Livingstone will teach you and of your class what one man can do for a great continent if he "lives and believes." He said, "The end of the exploration is the beginning of the missionary enterprise."

Oh! you are a teacher of a junior class. Boys or girls? Well, never mind which. Both boys and girls are charmed with "Livingstone the Pathfinder." You will never forget it if you plan to spend eight hours with your class studying that book for it is fascinating and tells the story of the life of Livingstone with a charm of its life. It is just as good for boys and girls as the Livingstone edition of "Daybreak in the Dark Continent" is for men and women.

Have we helps for the study of these

books for the teachers who do not know how to teach anything but the Bible? Yes, we have and they are truly helpful. They make it easier to teach these study class books than to teach the Bible. The Bible is often hard to teach because things happened so long ago and we are not in touch with the life of those days. The political geography has changed. The ancient Holy Land does not seem real. But Africa is real. The geography of Africa to-day is the geography we study. The history of the past few years is the history which interests us. The more we study Africa we find out how and why Great Britain has such large possessions in that continent. All the geography and history taught in the day schools help to make it easier to teach the Mission Study Classes. After we have studied these books the newspapers and magazines will be more interesting. In fact we are in a better position to talk about the world movements.

Do you want something worthy of the attention of the Epworth League? The Livingstone centennial will give every Epworth League an interesting task. Epworth Leagues may organize Mission Study Classes and Reading Circles, using the Livingstone Library and text-books. The Epworth Leagues like to do a big thing. Here is an opportunity.

Some Livingstone Celebration Suggestions

Among the many reasons why we should celebrate the one hundredth anniversary of David Livingstone's birth is that he was a man who trusted God, a man whom God trusted to do a great work. A study of his faithfulness, his self-denial and his methods must be helpful. A study of God's providences and the results following Livingstone's life work will greatly encourage all Christians and should lead every one to believe in missions.

There are some problems to be faced. Most people are so busy pursuing something which is just ahead that they are not inclined to look back a hundred years. How shall we gain their attention? How shall we show them the great advantage of studying the past that they may better understand the present and better plan for the future?

Our main channels of approach to the people are through the pulpit, the Sunday School, the Young People's Society, the Midweek prayer meeting and the home. In some cases our Public, High Schools and Colleges will co-operate in this great educational effort.

Space will not permit presenting exhaustive plans. The following suggestions may lead some to write for fuller information:

1. Thousands of ministers will preach sermons calling attention to the Apostle of Africa—the man who denied himself that he might extend the Kingdom of Christ. (Special helps and suggestions will be sent free to ministers and local preachers.)

2. An enrolment of readers of the Life of Livingstone in each church throughout the world. (See Livingstone Library.)

3. Mission Study Classes on Africa, and the life of Livingstone will be organized in homes and churches. (See text-books and Helps for Leaders and Reference Libraries.)

Social evenings in homes and church parlors for conversation about Livingstone and his work and study of maps and charts of Africa. (See Livingstone In-

door Baseball and suggestions re maps, etc.)

5. Programmes on David Livingstone will be given in Sunday Schools all over the world. (See "Missionary Outlook" for December, January and February, or write for Sunday School Programmes—15 cents per hundred.)

6. Livingstone Missionary evenings will be given in Epworth Leagues and Young People's Societies of all denominations. (See Programmes in "Missionary Outlook," or write for them.)

7. The prayer life of Livingstone will be studied in the midweek prayer meetings and around the family altar. A copy free to leaders. (\$1.00 per hundred.)

8. Union meetings of all denominations will be held in cities, towns and villages and throughout the country at which addresses on the life and work of David Livingstone will be delivered. (See suggestions this number "Epworth Era.")

9. Livingstone Institutes will be held for two or three days for the study of Missions and methods of work for missions. (Programmes supplied on application.)

10. Articles will be published in the religious and secular press, "The Christian Guardian," "The Missionary Outlook," "The Epworth Era" and the Sunday School periodicals will contain much of interest. (See Livingstone number of addresses on the life and work of David Livingstone for February, 1913.)

11. Reading Circles using the Livingstone Library (price \$2.00) will be formed. (See Livingstone Life Contest, this number of the EPWORTH ERA.)

12. A Concert Programme, combining the celebration of Easter, March 23rd, and the Livingstone Centenary, March 19th, 1913. (Price \$1.50 per hundred, \$1.80 postpaid.)

13. The "Read a Life of Livingstone Contest." (See Plan Page 28.)

14. Many Public Schools and High Schools will make a study of the work of Livingstone in Africa and will hold a public meeting at which addresses on the history and the changes in the geography of Africa since the days of Livingstone will be given. (Suggestions will be sent on application.)

Those who personally read, study and meditate on Livingstone's self-denial, devotion and faithfulness, will derive most benefit from this celebration.

For literature and information regarding Livingstone Centennial, address F. C. Stephenson, Methodist Mission Rooms, Toronto, Ontario.

"Read a Life of Livingstone" Contest

How many in your congregation, Sunday School and Epworth League have read Livingstone's Life? Will you please find out? The minister, Sunday School Superintendent and Epworth League President will be glad to ask.

Ask all who have read his life, together with all who would like to read it, to meet to make plans to enter, wherever possible in a Livingstone Life Contest. Ask the minister, or some one who will appreciate the great privilege of joining in the celebration of the one hundredth anniversary of the birth of Livingstone, to give a short address on the subject, calling attention to the plans and materials which are available and showing the necessity of careful organization if the best advantage is to be taken of this opportunity.

It may be well to appoint a Captain or President of the Contest and two Lieutenants or Vice-presidents. Pink and