

Missionary.

Great Missionaries.

HENRY MARTYN.

When the British soldiers, armed with the Martini-Henry rifle, went to fight the Zulus in 1879, *Punch*, the English comic journal, had a paragraph, the gist of which was expressed as follows:

BRITAIN'S MESSENGERS TO THE HEATHEN:

1809—Henry Martyn.

1879—Martini-Henry.

The juxtaposition of the two names is most significant, one standing for peace and the other for war. If a greater number of missionaries with Bibles had been sent to the heathen, fewer soldiers with rifles would have been called for.

If all the records of Christian biography be searched it would be difficult to find the name of a man so thoroughly devoted to Christ, and so consumed with a burning passion to extend the kingdom of his Lord and Master, as Henry Martyn. Writing once to a friend, Frederick Robertson, said: "I do not wonder at the feelings you express in reading Henry Martyn's letters. What a glorious instance he was of what God can make such a thing as man—little less than a seraph, burning in one deathless flame of love. It is a book that may well be blistered by hot tears of shame."

There is more than one point of similarity between Henry Martyn and David Brainerd, the subject of our last missionary sketch. Both were of delicate health, and yet were characterized by wonderful will power. Both were noted for their intense devotion to Christ and His cause, and both died young.

Henry Martyn was born in 1781, and was educated at Cambridge University, where he took high standing. Early in life he determined to be a missionary, and chose India as his field of labor.

When he set foot on India's soil, his words were "Now let me burn out for God." This desire was only too quickly fulfilled, for he died at the early age of thirty-one years, having literally worn himself out by his heroic devotion to duty, and utter disregard of personal comfort. He was inclined to be gloomy, and frequently condemned himself for not being as consecrated as he should be, but he was really a saint of God, if ever one existed.

His first task was to obtain a knowledge of Hindustani, in order that he might give the benighted heathen the gospel in their own language. He was very much opposed by the English military authorities, and even persecuted by his fellow clergymen.

Probably no other man ever worked so industriously in the face of so much discouragement. With the most utter disregard of his own health he applied himself to get the word of God into the language of the natives, and to qualify

himself for preaching to them. When one considers the number of dialects in India this was no small task. Finding his work among the older people blocked by prejudice and superstition, he determined to give attention to the children, and established several schools. At last his health completely broke down. His old malady of the lungs reappeared with serious symptoms, his voice never very strong, became weaker, and almost inaudible, and his general exhaustion was extreme. He reluctantly decided to leave India, and seek restoration to health by a journey through Arabia and Persia.

On his way to Persia he suffered great hardships from the burning heat, and extreme changes of temperature. Persecution and opposition met him here as in India. More than once he was struck in the public streets. At this played havoc with his health. Fever began to waste his strength, and he was sadly neglected by his attendants. On the 16th of October, 1812, he breathed his last. An obelisk was erected over his grave by the East India Company, and in English, Armenian, Persian, and Turkish, declared that he was "One who was known in the East as a man of God."

When the news of his death arrived in England, Parliament was discussing the missionary clauses of the East India Company's Charter, and the tidings became the means of opening to India an unrestricted preaching of the gospel.

His country mourned his loss, old friends wept at the news of his death, Cambridge grieved over the loss of one of her finest and most honored sons, and the Church of God had one noble witness less on earth and one more in heaven. Macaulay wrote the following epitaph:

"Here Martyn lies. In manhood's early bloom, The Christian hero finds a Pagan tomb, Religion, sorrowing o'er her favorite son, Points to the glorious trophies that he won. Eternal trophies! not with carnage red, Not stained with tears, by helpless captives shed, But trophies of the Cross! for that dear Name, Through every form of danger, death, and shame, Onward he journeyed to a happier shore, Where danger, death, and shame assault no more."

Responsibility of the Church.

One of the best addresses delivered at the Ecumenical Missionary Conference was given by Rev. W. F. McDowell, D.D., on Young People's Day, the subject being "The Solemn Responsibility of the Church in the Light of the Working of God's Spirit among the Students and other Young People." He said:

"One word sums up the results of these fruitful days together—consecration. David Livingstone used to write at the close of his articles and letters, and to say, in all his speeches, 'The end of the explanation is the beginning of the enterprise.' The end of the Ecumenical Conference is the beginning of the ecumenical conquest. The end of the gathering is the beginning of the campaigning."

"A voice came, saying, 'Who will go and preach My Gospel to the heathen?' and several thousand students answered,

'Here I am; send me.' The sons and daughters of the Church are called of God, and how can they go if they are not sent?"

"It is the duty of the Church to enable her children to be useful as well as willing. The nation arms and equips her soldiers for conquest. She staggers not at any millions needed to plant her flag in triumph. Her volunteers are backed by the patriotism and wealth of the nation; the nation mortgages her future that she may send men forth to victory. Will the Church be less than that? The price of three battleships like the new *Kearsarge* would put 10,000 volunteers into the field for a year. The Church of Jesus Christ must enable her sons and daughters to be able as well as willing."

"The devotion of the volunteer must be equalled by the devotion of the Church. The patriotism of the soldier must not fail because of the apathy of the country, and the flag must not be brought back to the people; the people must move up to the flag, for we bear in our hands as the sign of our triumph 'the cross that turns not back.' To your knees, then, O Church of Christ, that you may see the vision that has been given to your children! Quench not their spirit."

"It is said the Anglo-Saxon nations could unite and whip the world. What do England and America want to whip the world for? They could unite with the other Christian nations to bring the world to the feet of the Redeemer. They could bind the whole world by gold chains about the feet of God."

"The students stand ready. Church of God, line up with the youth to follow the great Captain to victory, life, and peace!"

"I Must Tell Them."

A wounded Japanese soldier, while in the hospital, was converted to Christ. He labored faithfully with some of his comrades in the hospital, and afterward was heard to say, "I must go home soon and get the people of my village to believe."

A suggestion was made to him that it might be well for him to wait a while before going home, till he was better instructed in Christian doctrine. The suggestion astonished him, and he replied, simply, "It will never do for me to believe this alone; I must tell them."

—*The Missionary Herald*.

How to Give.

Mr. John Willis Buer, Secretary of the United Society of Christian Endeavor, said at the recent Ecumenical Missionary Conference: "I am tired of seeing money 'raised.' We must learn to give it. The only way I know that is going to put the present missionary methods out of date is that method which will work for systematic and proportionate giving to God. I would sooner have a body of young people give a cent a week to missions than four or five people give \$100 once in ten or fifteen years, and then talk about it all their lives afterward."