



# THE UNFULFILLED COMMISSION.

## CHAPTER I.

### THE COMMISSION.

OUR story opens on a hot August evening in 188—  
The opening scene is in M—, a Canadian town of  
some considerable importance. Clifton Graham, mission-  
ary elect to the Telugus in India, speaks that evening prior  
to his departure for his field of labor. He has completed  
the programme given him by the committee, with the ex-  
ception of M—, and accordingly his last words will be  
spoken there that evening. The account of his coming  
has preceded him, and more than the usual interest has  
been manifested in seeing and hearing the new missionary.

Wherever he has gone he has succeeded in awakening a  
good many indifferent workers, and adding fire to the zeal  
of a good many more. He has had a single message  
which he has pressed upon the people with such earnestness  
and importunity that it has gained a consideration. To  
many it has been startling, strange, incredible almost, so  
much so that it has been discussed not a little.

The people in M— were deeply interested in the  
Foreign work, and therefore were keenly sensitive to what-  
ever might affect it in any way. In their Circles, Bands,  
and Monthly missionary prayer meetings, all had come to  
be fairly well informed as to the actual condition of things