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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, missionary 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 exception 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 whatever 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