

## THE MARTYR BISHOP OF AFRICA.\*

BY THE REV. A. W. NICOLSON.



MISSIONARY TOURING IN EQUATORIAL AFRICA.

James Hannington was born in the south of Sussex, England, September, 1847; consecrated Bishop, June, 1884; murdered in Africa, October, 1885. From Cradle to Consecration, thirty-seven years; from Mitre to Crown, sixteen months. Rare and rapid promotion! His biography was published in 1893, and has reached its thirty-fifth thousand.

Two things are needed to make a readable biography—a good man and a good writer. Hannington was of “the guinea stamp.” His biographer, E. C. Dawson, M.A., Oxon, shows plainly rare skill and prudence in his work. The book is a literary treasure such as we seldom read. To students it must be a stimulus, to missionaries a benediction.

“They would not have had one

\* “The Life of James Hannington, First Bishop of Equatorial Africa.” By E. C. Dawson, M.A. Pp. 392. Illustrated. London: Seeley & Co. Methodist Book-Rooms, Toronto, Montreal and Halifax.

thing about him different,” says his biographer, of Hannington’s friends. This would be an inscription of which very few tombstones are worthy. “Keep my memory green,” said Dickens, but the above is a memory in full flower—immortelles at that.

Hannington’s great-grandfather was of superhuman strength—a fine progenitor for an African bishop. His father was “fond of travel,” his grandmother was of renowned beauty, and his mother a woman of magnetic disposition. So much for heredity.

From the dawn of his mind Hannington loved nature; saw its lichens, cunning birds and mysteries of rock and cavern. At seven years of age he was a yachtsman—discovered one day at the masthead “suspended by the seat of his trousers.” Of private schools and tutors he had a hearty dislike, a feeling which seems to have been reciprocated. He was



A MISSIONARY OCTOPOD.

soon known on the campus as “Mad Jim,” and had his full share of thrashing and being thrashed.

At sixteen he gave his services to a counting-house. At eighteen he was an artillery officer, and varied his occupation with commanding the yacht, and appearing at his best when the sails were be-