

After a careful and unusually minute examination of this book, which is certainly gotten up without regard to cost, and profusely illustrated, our conclusion is that Dr. Johnston's medium of observation has not been entirely free from color; as an astronomer would say, his "lenses have not been achromatic," and the deficiency of a clear medium has communicated a false hue to the objects seen. This conviction is a growing one as we read these pages; and, in obedience to the same desire which he claims, to free the great subject from all false lights and get at realities and verities, we purpose now to review candidly and carefully some of his positions; our only regret being that we have but a few pages to treat what a volume might well discuss.

One conclusion which, at an early stage in his work, Dr. Johnston states, is that "self-supporting missions" are, in Africa, "a grand mistake." * It will thus be seen that the author does not hesitate to use tolerably emphatic terms. He pronounces such missions an "absolute failure." Bishop Taylor's and all the rest of them are swept away in one grand flood of condemnation. Dr. Johnston thinks it is infinitely more difficult for a white man to earn his living in Africa than in any European country, unless he abandons mission work; and that the training of native children for future missionary work only makes idle dudes of the boys, and of the girls desirable wives for aristocratic heathen. †

This language is so sweeping that it betrays a mind that is not *empirical*, not judicial but rather prejudicial; that leaps to a hasty conclusion. That difficulties beset self-supporting missions is true; and, perhaps, they are as yet experimental, and their utility is now being tested. But to denounce as a failure what has not yet survived the experimental period, or been proven a success, would be fatal to all improvement. Invention and discovery reach their highest results through just such apparent failure and waste of resources and energy. The practical application of any theory requires quite as much wisdom in working as the theory does in devising. To say that, thus far, such missions have not demonstrated their success is one thing; to affirm that they are a proven failure, and brush them all away like chaff from a summer threshing floor, is certainly a bold if not a rash proceeding, and hints over-confidence in the infallibility of the author's judgment.

In a similar fashion, with unstinted condemnation, Dr. Johnston sweeps down on Mr. Booth, who went out to Africa to undertake a self-supporting mission, leaving behind his lucrative trade to attempt Africa's evangelization and "keep" himself. Our author regards him as following a mad theory, risking the life of a motherless daughter, etc. † He considers him as courting a martyr's death, and expecting, like a Zulu warrior or Hindu devotee, compensation in the life to come for his sacrifice of life here. Thus it will be seen that he not only condemns Mr. Booth's course of con-

* P. 26.

† Pp. 26, 27.

‡ Pp. 297, 298.