

of 1860 he co-operated with Lord Dufferin, representing the Allied Powers, in adjusting the difficulties of that delicate situation. He acted as Chairman of the Relief Committee, organized to meet the emergency. He was a tower of strength to the mission amidst the many difficulties and perils of the early heroic period of missionary effort in Syria. He was a man of large and statesmanlike views, calm judgment, undaunted courage, great practical wisdom, and an efficient organizer. He held a position of commanding influence among natives of all classes. One of the leading peculiarities of his missionary life was his kindly spirit towards the natives, and his success in adapting himself to the life of the country, and in winning the affection and confidence of the people. Syria is a field in which pioneer work has always been attended with peculiar difficulties. Dr. Thomson has at different times opened and established stations at new points with remarkable success.

In his private life he was a man of genial and lovely qualities. His missionary aims were large and comprehensive, his devotion to duty untiring, and his religious views were characterized by strength of conviction, liberality, and the best of common sense. For many years he preached continuously at Beyrout both in Arabic and English. He took a prominent part in organizing the great educational work of Syria, as represented chiefly at the present time by the

Syrian Protestant College, and the fine institutions for the education of girls.

He is known, however, in this country, and even throughout the world, as an author rather than a missionary. It was stated before the Commission of the British Parliament on international copyright that the circulation of "The Land and the Book" in Great Britain had been larger than any other American publication, "Uncle Tom's Cabin" alone excepted. It is characterized by a peculiar charm of style, and a freshness and vividness which gives it special value as a commentary upon the Scriptures. The reader feels as if he were coming into living contact with the scenes and incidents of the Bible, presented with a fidelity and insight which were realistic. His later edition of the book was written with care, in the light of modern discoveries. Dr. Thomson was also a contributor to many periodicals in the same line of vivid and luminous illustration of the Bible.

Such a life has been of inestimable value not only to missions, but to the cause of popular biblical instruction. It is a worthy example of the varied and unique service often rendered by missionaries, the true significance and power of which are not always recognized. Dr. Thomson suffered from a paralytic trouble during the latter years of his life, but his mental condition was natural and clear. The end came suddenly and he passed peacefully and tranquilly away. —*The Faithful Witness.*

WAIT.

WAIT thou His time, dear heart, be still;
The frowning clouds that darken now
Thy lonely desert way
Shall brighten into day,
And then how wondrous bright 'twill be—
wait thou!

Can I afford to wait? O yes;
'Tis better further on, I know,
Than it doth now appear.
When all these mists shall clear,
We'll reap in joy, though now in tears we
sow.

Wait in the Lord, His strength is thine,
"For as thy day thy strength shall be,"
The gracious promise sure
Forever shall endure,
And in His might ours is the victory.

Wait on the Lord, as servants wait
The approving smile, the counsel meet
Of those they gladly serve
And every wish observe,
On whose commands they run with willing
feet.

Wait for the Lord, His time is best;
The endless years are His, for here,
In much confusion, we
The "tangled ends" but see;
But there the full-wrought pattern shall
appear

Of God's great finished temple; now
We but the scaffolding behold,
But all the grand design
Shall out in glory shine,
Nor half its beauty ever can be told.

—J. B. B.