



# THE ANADIAK EPWORTH ERA

Vol. XV.

S. T. BARTLETT, Editor  
W.M. BRIGGS, Publisher

TORONTO, FEBRUARY, 1913

WESLEY BUILDINGS  
TORONTO, ONTARIO

No. 2

## DAVID LIVINGSTONE MISSIONARY, EXPLORER, SCIENTIST

MISS IDELL ROGERS, COBOURG, ONT.

"How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who bringeth good tidings, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth!"

THESE words of the most rich and eloquent of the Hebrew poets bear fitting testimony to the noble and beautiful life of David Livingstone, the centenary of whose birth the mission boards of England and America are preparing to celebrate on March 19th. As an explorer, traveler, scientist, David Livingstone deserves a place among the great, the mighty dead of Britain's race; but it was as a missionary that he won his fame, that he rose to honor. He sleeps in Westminster Abbey, the Valhalla of the great, the noble and the good, and to-day, as the people of two continents seek to strew rosemary upon his grave, words seem inadequate to frame a just and adequate conception of his life, character and work.

To David Livingstone there came in the eager days of youth—

"Something his ear had never heard,  
Something unknown to any song of bird,  
Something unborn by wind or wave or storm."

It was his Master's voice, and with the breathing of the word, he felt laid upon him invisible hands of consecration, setting him aside for a great work. Out of prolonged communion with God in the secret place he came to the realization that the English-speaking nation was called to a unique task in bringing in the kingdom of God and the consummate achievement of the dream of the civilization of Christless nations. For this end he looked upon his nation as called to a royal priesthood, as ministers unto all humanity.

David Livingstone was born at a time that is regarded as the diffusive period of Christianity, when it began to be more and more understood and recognized that all truth was every man's property, and committed to no church or individual, to no priest or sage to be given or withheld. It was at a time, too, when a diminished importance was beginning to

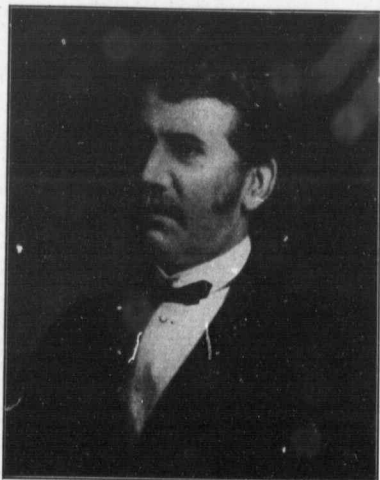
be ascribed to the outward parts of Christianity, and when purity of desire and deed, and Christly love of God and man, were being recognized as the essential things. Contemporary with David Livingstone were many men of deep thought and scholarly research, whose touch upon English life and character is eternal. There was Charles Dickens, who gave to the world a masterly realism of the good

David Livingstone was of more vital influence upon the destiny of the world than all these, or of that memorable battle in which Napoleon's star set in blood two years later, and the Duke of Wellington rose to the zenith of his fame.

In speaking of his family history, Livingstone was wont to refer with pride to "my order of the honest poor," and it is said that in all of the family history

there is no record of a dishonest man. Among those fighting with Wellington in the ranks of the British Army, were two of the Livingstone family. One of David Livingstone's ancestors died at Culloden, defending the Stuarts. On his father's side he inherited the Highlander's daring and love of exploit, and from his mother's people the courage, zeal and devotion of the Covenanting stock. The second son of his parents, he was born at Blantyre, seven miles from Glasgow, where his father was a dealer in tea. The father, Neil Livingstone, and his wife lived a quiet life. Their family, the shop, the Little Independent Chapel where they worshipped, centred their life. Yet it was sufficient for the practice of the fundamental Christian virtues and a Christlike interest in the progress of the kingdom. Needless to say, this home life helped to influence the youth David in his decision to become a missionary.

When a boy, working in a factory in his native town, he used to have a book upon his spinning jenny, and while his fingers were deftly employed, he gathered laboriously such elementary schooling as was possible. He attended a night school, and in the "wee sma' hours was wont to struggle with Latin, until his mother, caring for the boy's physical wellbeing, as mothers have always done, would come and take his light away. By the time he was eighteen years of age he had prepared himself to enter Glasgow University. Amid the environments of college experiences, buds of thought that had their origin in his home, opened within his touch, while the unique purpose of his own individual life expanded and



DAVID LIVINGSTONE.

and ill of everyday life; Carlyle, the profound, dramatic, who spoke deep words about the mystery of human life; Tennyson, the immortal bard, master of charm, of felicities of expression, of subtle harmonies of sound, whose faith pierced the unseen and revealed the beauty of the things that remain; and, too, noble men of science and statesmanship, all of whom had a great mission. It has been said, however, and truly, that the birth of