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I.—LITERATURE OF MISSIONS.

A ROMANCE OF MODERN MISSIONS.*

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ONE day in the winter of 1832-3, four Flathead Indians appeared upon the streets of St. Louis with a request which no white man had ever heard before. They came, they said, from the land of the setting sun. They had heard of the white man's God and they wanted the white man's Book of Heaven.

General Clarke, then commanding the military post at St. Louis, was a Roman Catholic. The Roman Catholic missionaries have performed heroic service for the Indians. Unfortunately, however, they have tried to give the Indians Christianity without civilization. So while the four Flatheads were received with the greatest hospitality, and were shown the Roman Catholic church, the pictures of the saints, etc., yet they were steadily denied their oft repeated request for a Bible. Two of the Indians died in St. Louis from the fatigue of their long journey from Oregon. The other two, homesick and disappointed, prepared to return. Gen. Clarke made a banquet for them and bade them God speed on their journey. One of the Indians was called upon to respond. His response deserves to rank with Lincoln's Gettysburg speech as a model of eloquence and with Washington's Farewell Address in the influence it subsequently exercised. We can give no just idea of the circumstances, or of the impression it produced. We can only give the English version of the speech which, like all translations, loses much of the force of the original:

"I came to you over the trail of many moons from the setting sun. You are the friend of my fathers who have all gone the long way. I came with my eye partly opened for more light for my people who sit in darkness. I go back with both eyes closed. How can I go back blind to my blind people? I made my way to you with strong arms, through many enemies and strange lands, that I might carry back much to them. I go back with both arms broken and empty. Two fathers came with us. They were the braves of many winters and wars. We leave them asleep here by your

Barrows' Oregon, Gray's History of Oregon, Reed's Missions of the Methodist Episcopal Church, Gov. Simpson's Narrative, Parlman's Oregon Trail, and personal correspondence with Rev. Daniel Lee.