

to do full justice to his hero's missionary activity. We regret the use of some expressions which lead one to think our author is an enemy of the old theology and of religious customs dear to lovers of old ways, but at the same time we cannot help admiring the manly straightforwardness with which he says what he thinks, and the unaffected simplicity of speech which shrinks in disgust from anything savoring of pietistic cant.

Mr. Johnston gives us a rapid but vivid picture of Livingstone's early life. We see a quiet, reserved lad, with a far-away look in his eyes, and a hunger for knowledge in his heart. The poverty of his parents forced him to work in a cotton factory at an age when he ought to have been at school. He carried his book with him to the factory, and so arranged it on the spinning-jenny that he could catch a sentence everytime he passed backward and forward. This arrangement helped the reading, but it did not help the spinning. He did not count for much among his companions who spoke of him in after days as one who "was no thoct to be a by-ordinar' laddie; just a sulky, quiet, feckless sort o' boy"—all of which means that he was in their estimation a commonplace, if not stupid and useless fellow.

The committee of the London Missionary Society were disposed to endorse the opinion of the Blantyre factory lads, in regard to Livingstone's stupidity, when he presented himself before them as a candidate for service in the foreign field. He did not make a favorable impression by any means, his backwardness in extempore prayer leading almost to rejection. Fortunately for Africa and the world, he was accepted. The desire to explore laid hold of him on his arrival in South Africa, but marriage to a daughter of Dr. Moffatt anchored him for a few years to work among the Bechuana. Mr. Johnston warmly praises the sensible views Livingstone took of missionary endeavor. "His views on missionaries and mission work were at all times thoroughly sound, and free from anything like hypocrisy, or the deliberate over-coloring and falsification of reports which is so striking a blemish in the publications of most missionary societies even at the present day." He was not too sanguine about the speedy reformation of the heathen, and was painfully conscious that many of the converts were but weak-kneed brethren in their observance of religious principles. Yet he had firm faith in the