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WILLIAM E. DODGE, ONE OF THE PROMOTERS OF MISSIONS.*

BY THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF.

When David fought with the Amalekites and recovered all that they had carried away after the burning of Ziklag, he made emphatic a memorable rule which manifestly has a typical bearing, as it is more than once referred to, both before and afterward: † “*As his part that goeth down to the battle, so his part that tarrieth by the stuff: they shall part alike.*”

This is known as “*Hannington’s dictum*,” from the prominence which the martyr bishop of Uganda gave to it in his missionary addresses and correspondence; and the principle it enunciates is really fundamental. Nothing is more necessary to an army, engaged in a campaign in an enemy’s country, than to keep open the *line of communication* with the base of supplies. Somebody must stay by the stuff, while others go to the front, and see that ammunition and provision of all sorts are furnished in abundance, for the connection between the troops on the field and their supporters in the rear must be kept open, as manifestly one of the conditions of successful warfare—a condition as indispensable as to have soldiers to face the foe.

The merchant prince to whose career we now advert was a very conspicuous example of the friends and promoters of missions, showing how a man, without directly engaging in missionary work himself, is vitally related to the whole cause of missions, and inseparable alike from its successes and its rewards.

Mr. Dodge had a heredity which was consistent with his own career. The first of the American family of Dodge, traceable back to 1629, was a promoter of schools and churches, and bore also the name of William; and the family history, all the way through, shows mingled piety and patriotism, intelligent service of both Church and State, in war and peace.

* *American Reformers*. Edited by Carlos Martyr. Funk & Wagnalls. Memorials of William E. Dodge, by D. Stuart Dodge.

† Compare Numbers 31 : 27 ; Joshua 22 : 8 ; Psalm 68 : 12.