

A DOUBLE TRAIL OF GLORY.

THE LIFE OF ISABELLA THOBURN.

BY MAUDE PETITT, B.A.



THE SARAH TUCKER TRAINING INSTITUTION FOR GIRLS AT PALMACOTTAH.



TO be the first appointee of the Woman's Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church—to be the chief founder of higher education for women of India—to be the principal of two schools at the same time—to found the Deaconess work, the Home, Training School, and Hospital, in Cincinnati, besides helping to launch it in Chicago and Boston—to so bear the banner of leadership in both the United States and in Asia—and all with one woman's strength, and one woman's life! Is not this a marvellous record? When we remember, too, the unhurried calm, the beauty, and the peace of Isabella Thoburn's character, we pray for clean hands and a pure heart with

which to pen the outline of her story.

She was born in the year 1840 in the old farmhouse among the beautiful hills about St. Clairsville, Ohio. It was doubtless her childhood's surroundings that begot in her that love of nature which afterward made her so observant of the beauties of her far-off Indian home. She was the ninth in a family of ten children. They were not rich. Neither were they poor.

Bishop Thoburn relates an incident which reveals much of the character of both parents. The farm had not been wholly paid for, and it was a matter of rejoicing to the whole family when the last payment was made. The father brought home the cancelled note, and two gold eagles, one of which he tossed into the mother's lap, saying: "That is for a new winter cloak for you; let us give