



AUSTRALIAN LUBRA AND PICCANINNY.

[frontispiece.

MISSIONARY TRIUMPHS

AMONG THE
SETTLERS IN AUSTRALIA
AND THE
SAVAGES OF THE SOUTH SEAS

A Twofold Centenary Volume

BY
JOHN BLACKET

Author of
'The History of South Australia,' 'Not Left Without Witness ;
or, Divine Truth in the Light of Reason and Revelation,'
'A South Australian Romance,' 'Social Diseases
and Suggested Remedies' (being a Criticism of
some Socialistic Theories), &c., &c.

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Dedicated to
THE
NOBLE BAND
OF
MEN AND WOMEN
WHO
HAVE WORKED
AND TO THOSE
WHO
ARE NOW WORKING
IN THE
FOREIGN MISSION FIELD

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INTRODUCTION

THERE are two notable events closely related. One is the CENTENARY OF THE METHODIST MISSIONARY SOCIETY; the other the CENTENARY OF AUSTRALIAN METHODISM. The two events are not only closely related in point of time, but they are also akin. It was the Methodist Missionary Society in the Old Land that gave birth to Australian Methodism, and founded the Methodist Missions in the South Seas.

In the history of the world there are great events—new departures—the effects of which are agelong and universal. The birth of the Methodist Missionary Society was one of these. No finite mind, however gifted—no combination of minds—could adequately conceive the magnitude and the far-reaching character of the work done by this Society during the century just completed. Its operations have been on a vast scale, and a 'great multitude, whom no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues,' have been influenced for good through its agency. It has, indeed, 'preached the gospel to the poor, healed the broken-hearted, proclaimed deliverance to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind.' In some instances it has been the chief factor in saving society from total corruption, and where barbarism of the most revolting character reigned it has introduced the benefits of civilization; it has transformed the savage into a civilized man,

and in many instances it has redeemed the hardened convict. All this will be made manifest in the story I have to tell.

Others have told in detail how the first Methodist Missionary Society came into existence, and have described the noble men who gave it birth. This was in the old town of Leeds, in Yorkshire, on October 6, 1813. The new departure was God-inspired. The memorable meeting in Leeds began, continued, and ended in prayer. In quick succession one provincial town after another copied the example set by Leeds, and very soon all over England Methodist Missionary Societies were founded.

In 1818 a central Missionary Society was formed in connexion with the British Conference. This was a kind of central sun around which all the provincial Societies revolved. The formation of this Society was largely the outcome of the administrative genius of Jabez Bunting, and the zeal and eloquence of Richard Watson. A Board of Missions was established, with Joseph Taylor as secretary, and with Messrs. Bunting and Watson as assistant secretaries.

Under the new régime the growth of the missionary movement was phenomenal, as the following figures will show. The first line is taken from Smith's *History of Methodism*, and each subsequent line from the old *Methodist Magazines* for the years mentioned:

Year.	Stations.	Income.
1814	30	£6,820
1824	112	£38,046
1834	177	£60,865
1854	377	£111,048 ¹

¹ *Methodist Magazine*, 1825, p. 139; 1835, p. 295; 1855, p. 562.

It was in the year 1854 that Australian Methodism ceased to be a mission directly controlled by the Methodist Missionary Society in London. In 1853 the Rev. Robert Young was deputed by the British Conference to visit the Australian Colonies to open up negotiations with the missionaries in Australia for the formation of an Australian Conference. These negotiations were successful; the Conference in the Old Land gave to the Methodist Church in Australia the right of self-government, and placed the missions in the South Seas under its control.

Celebrating, as we have been, the Centenary of the formation of the first Methodist Missionary Society, and celebrating, as we shall be in 1915, the Centenary of Australian Methodism, it will be of special service to see how the Society in London gave birth to the Methodist Church in Australia, and to the missions in the South Seas; posterity should also know something of the noble men who laid the foundations of a vast spiritual enterprise in these southern lands. At this epoch in its history the Methodist Church should see that this duty is discharged; hence the reason why I have written this centenary volume. For about forty years the Methodist Missions in Australia were under the control of the Missionary Department of the British Conference, and it is with that period that I especially deal.

What has specially impressed me while writing the book is the striking points of contact between the work done by the pioneer Methodist missionaries in Australia and Polynesia and that done by the apostles when extending and consolidating the Apostolic Church.

The mystery is inexplicable, but there are powers in the universe that make for evil, and there is an organized kingdom of darkness. It was these powers that the Methodist missionaries as well as the apostles had to face; it was this kingdom of darkness that they had to attack and to subdue. In doing this (as my story will show) they manifested sublime heroism, disinterested self-sacrifice, and unswerving fidelity. They were often surrounded by dreadful scenes, in circumstances of appalling danger, attacked by men inspired by the devil; but their faith never failed, nor did their courage falter.

This book is an historical record, and care has been taken to make the record correct. My chief source of information has been *the oldest religious periodical in the world*. This is *The Methodist Magazine*, established by John Wesley in 1778, and continued to this day. When first published the work was known as *The Arminian Magazine*. It is my good fortune to possess one of the first volumes issued by Wesley, and a copy of each succeeding number over a long period of years.

As soon as the Methodist Missionary Society in the Old Land was formed the *Magazine* set apart some of its pages to record the operations of the Society. If the history of a nation is contained in its newspapers, then the history of the Methodist Church and of its Missions is contained within the covers of its *Magazine*.

Some years ago the late Rev. James Bickford,¹ a Methodist missionary, and one of the fathers of Australian Methodism, published a book on *Christian Work in Australia*. That book has been of some

¹ His Life has been published by the Methodist Book-Room, London.

service to me, as well as another on *Fiji and the Fijians*, by the late Rev. Thomas Williams.

It is my wish that the book should be *educational* as well as *inspirational*; that it should appeal to the general reader as well as to the church member; hence at the beginning of each chapter there is an account of the discovery of each country, and the founding of each colony in which a mission was established, as well as other items of historical interest and value.

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Norwood.

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