

**MISSIONARY HEROINES IN
EASTERN
LANDS: WOMAN'S
WORK IN MISSION FIELDS**

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Missionary Heroines in Eastern Lands: Woman's Work in Mission Fields by E. R. Pitman

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E. R. PITMAN

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AN ANXIOUS MOMENT—MRS. BOGART LUTHERTON AND THE ALABAS.

MISSIONARY HEROINES

IN

EASTERN LANDS:

Woman's Work in Mission Fields

BY

MRS. F. R. PITMAN

AUTHOR OF "LADY MISSIONARIES IN FOREIGN LANDS,"
"VERINA'S MARTYRDOM," ETC.



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PREFACE.

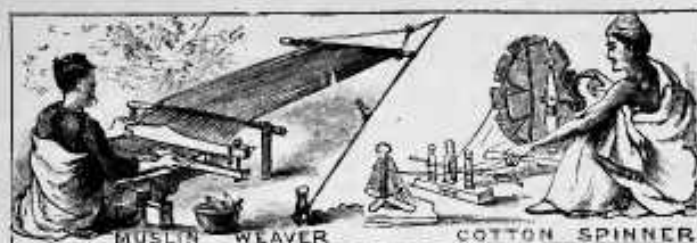
THE annals of Christian Missions furnish copious records of womanly heroism. From the days of Ann H. Judson, in the early part of this century, until now, the succession has not failed. Alike in the frozen regions of Greenland and under the tropical heats of India delicate women have been found labouring side by side with their husbands among their untaught, heathen sisters. The records of mission toil prove that they have not laboured in vain, nor spent their strength for nought. As the fruits of their self-denial, that "Great Day for which all other days were made" will see multitudes who shall be their reward and crown of rejoicing. As we think of reward, we turn to the days of Christ upon earth, when He told His disciples that, as they had followed Him through contumely, and hatred, and kingly persecution, so, "great should be their reward in heaven." This may safely be said of these missionary toilers. They followed their Master in His self-denial and labour for others, and they will share in the honours of His kingdom.

Mrs. Mackay Ruthquist's life among the Hindoo peoples, furnishes some new light on mission work in that land; Mrs. Bowen Thompson's work in Syria opens up a comparatively new field of mission life; Miss McGeorge's deals with the medical aspect of missions in the East, showing how necessary and beneficial it is that the missionary should imitate his Master in being a healer and a teacher; while Miss Whately's life commends itself as a record of self-sacrifice among the peasants of the Nile. In all these instances it will be found that to women, animated with the true Spirit, open doors were very numerous. It is needless to attempt to tabulate results in either of these cases. They worked for eternity, sowing the sure seed of the kingdom which infallibly bears abundant harvest.

We look upon it as a great honour conferred upon stay-at-home Christians to be permitted to sustain the hands of these far-away workers; to be permitted to count one such worker upon a family roll is a patent of heaven's nobility. Those who have given friends to this high and holy enterprise may rest assured that the gift is honoured by the Master, and will redound in blessings on those whom they have left behind.

In conclusion, it remains for me to thank those who have rendered me aid in the compilation of this little volume of biographies. More particularly do I extend my thanks to E. G. McGeorge, Esq., J.P., of Belfast, who kindly furnished me with MS. assistance relating to his sister's life. Her memory must be to his family, as well as to the Irish Presbyterian Church, a very sweet savour of cheerful self-surrender, and a suddenly yielded life.

E. R. P.



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MRS. ALEXINA MACKAY RUTHQUIST.

(From Photo by H. Gordon, Aberdeen.)



MISSIONARY HEROINES IN EASTERN LANDS.

Mrs. Alexina Mackay Ruthquist,

A SINGER OF GOOD NEWS AMONG HINDOO PEOPLES.

CHAPTER I.

EARLY LIFE.

MRS. ALEXINA RUTHQUIST was the daughter of the Rev. M. Mackay, the Free Church minister of Fordyce, a little village on the Banffshire coast of Scotland; she was born there on the 8th of September, 1848. We are told that Alexina "was a merry little girl, full of rhyme and repartee," and when very young, was wont, out of pure kindness of heart, to visit blind, deaf, and afflicted ones in the hamlet, and to do her childish best to enliven and cheer their loneliness. It is likely that Alexina had heard much of missions in her childhood, for her maternal grandfather, the Rev. John Robertson, was a staunch advocate of them,