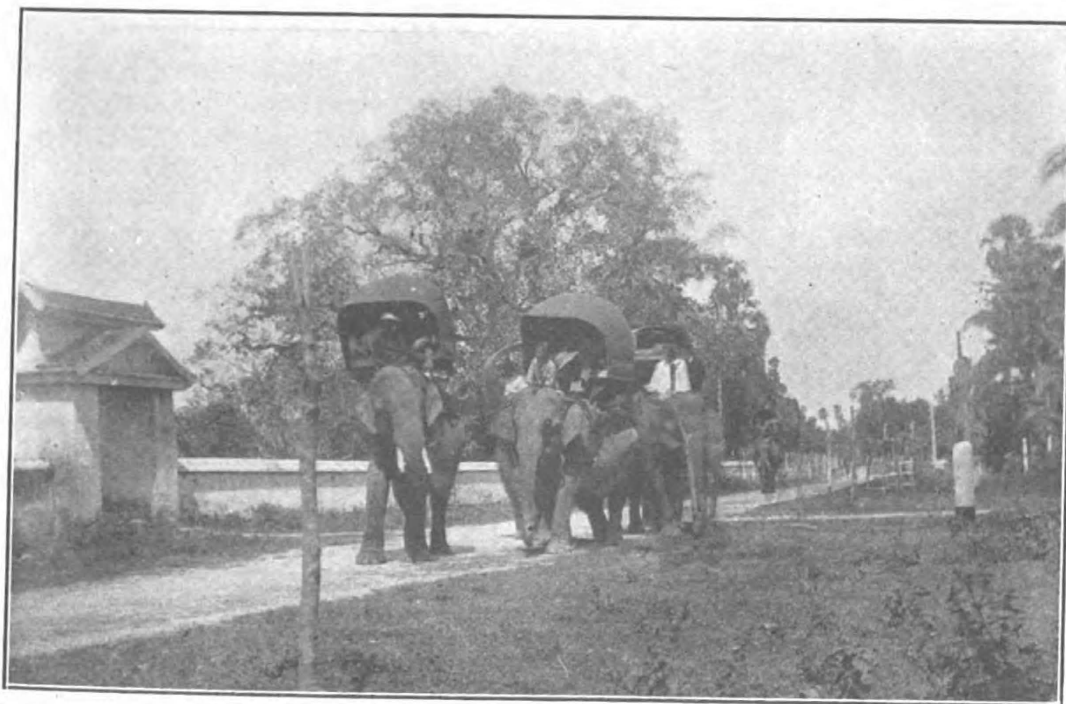




THE REV. EUGENE P. DUNLAP, D.D.
American Presbyterian Missionary to Siam, 1875 to 1918



ITINERATING BY ELEPHANT EXPRESS IN SIAM

A Modern Apostle of Siam

A SKETCH OF THE LIFE AND WORK OF THE REV. EUGENE P. DUNLAP, D.D.*

BY THE REV. ARTHUR J. BROWN, D.D., LL.D., NEW YORK CITY

Author of "The Foreign-Missionary," etc.

FEW missionaries of any age have had such varied experiences and such influence upon the people among whom they labored as had Eugene P. Dunlap who, for forty-three years, went about doing good in the kingdom of Siam. Few men have been more signally characterized by beauty of spiritual life and fidelity of Christian devotion. Some other workers, both at home and abroad, have surpassed him in the number of converts, though these often resulted from his preaching. He baptized men and women in every one of his tours, and it is doubtful whether, when he was on the field, a month ever passed without conversions. But Siamese Buddhism does not yield so readily to the Christian appeal for outward confession of Christ as the more emotional peoples of animistic faiths. And yet no one can read Dr. Dunlap's letters and reports without noting the frequency of such passages as the following:

"One day, when preaching under a large shade tree on the seashore, I noticed one man who gave very close attention. After service, we gave him a copy of the Gospel according to Luke, saying: 'This book contains the precious stories of the life of Jesus; take it and read it.' That night he sat up almost all night to read it through, and before leaving the island, it was our privilege to baptize him. On the island lives a nobleman who was baptized some ten years ago. All these years he has kept the faith, the only Christian

* Dr. Dunlap, one of the great apostles of the modern Church, an honored missionary of the Presbyterian Church, U. S. A., passed away in Tap Teang, Siam, on April 4th, 1918.

on the island. Our most precious service was held in his home, when his wife, son, daughter, nephew and three neighbors were baptized. It was the happiest day of his life. Nine more of the islanders were then placed on probation. This happy company of believers were formed into a Christian band, with the disciple of ten years, and the above-mentioned lover of God's Word as their leader. They promised to meet in the two homes to worship God and study the Word. We recommend this little company of disciples of Jesus to the prayers of God's people.

"Our farewell service was held under a large shade tree on the beach. The Governor, other officials, all the disciples and inquirers and many of the villagers were there. * * * It was not easy to say good-bye to the beloved disciples. Were it not for the regions beyond, one would gladly spend his life with them. They followed us to the little boats waiting to take us to the ship, and they fairly loaded us with baskets of luscious fruits, tokens of their appreciation of our visit. As we steamed out of the harbor, they lingered on the shore waving to us their affectionate farewell.

"Our last service with this company [a group in another place] of beloved disciples was the celebration of the Lord's Supper. This was a solemn, precious service, held in the bamboo hut under the cocoanut trees. Six persons made profession of their faith in our Lord Jesus Christ and were baptized. On the following morning, the disciples escorted us through the jungles to our sail boat. They brought trays of fruit, rice, fish, and other supplies for the missionaries and their crew. After farewell words of counsel and encouragement, we sailed away to Nakawn."

Dr. Dunlap was an indefatigable itinerator. I know of no other missionary in any land who spent a larger proportion of his time in country work. Siam is not an easy country in which to itinerate. Until near the end of Dr. Dunlap's missionary service, there was no railway in that part of Siam which constituted his special field, and the one that was built then traversed only a small part of the region through which he journeyed. Very seldom was it of any assistance to him, for he toured among the villages far in the interior. Nor were there any wagon roads; nothing but mere paths, usually rough ones at that. He had to travel on elephants, or on ponies, or afoot, through vast jungle forests, over mountains and through rivers. The climate is hot, humid and debilitating. Such tropical diseases as cholera, dysentery and malignant malaria lurk on every hand. Mosquitoes swarm in millions, and while the people are uniformly kind and hospitable, the jungles through which he traveled, and amid which he often camped at night, abound in tigers, serpents, wild elephants and various other unpleasant prowlers.

But nothing could daunt the evangelistic zeal of this devoted missionary. Note the following extracts from his letters:

"We spend about one month of the year in our home. The remainder of the year we lodge in boats, Buddhist temples, market places, bungalows, bamboo huts, court houses, and the homes of the people. There are no inns, no hotels, in the interior of Siam. In all our itinerating field we do not own a lodging place, and yet we have never had to sleep on the ground or out doors but once. That speaks well for the hospitality of Siam's people. For weeks at a time we do not see a chair, bedstead or table; Siamese homes, as a rule, do

not have these 'uncomfortable things.' When we are their guests, we, like our host, sit, eat, and sleep on the floor.

"We proceeded up the river one day, and there had to get smaller canoes, for the stream became narrow, very rocky, and current swift. On the second day we reached another large settlement. We disposed of many good books to the people, and cared for a large number of sick, among them several officials. We were glad to see many of them get clear of the fever which was epidemic. At this point we had hoped to get elephants for our party and baggage, but could secure only three elephants. When I tell you that we



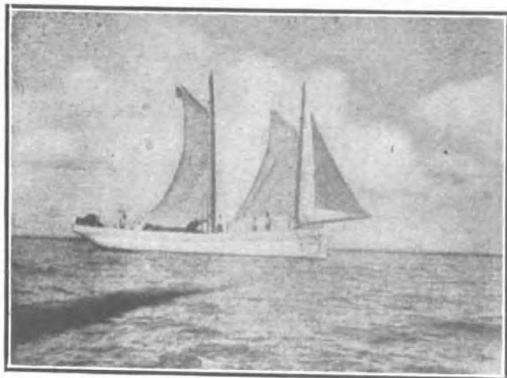
RIVER TRAVEL IN SIAMESE CANOES

[Dr. Dunlap traveled thousands of miles in this way]

carried more than two thousand books and tracts, five cases of medicines, stereopticon outfit, clothing for six months, camp outfit, provisions, cooking utensils, beds, etc., you will know that we have no small amount of baggage. The elephant that we were to ride had such a bad temper that we were afraid to mount him, so I said; 'Wife, what shall we do?' With her usual courage she answered by taking off her shoes to wade the first stream and said: 'Let us walk.' And walk we did for thirty miles, through jungles, over mountains, through streams and broad plains. On the second day we reached a camping place and were soon surrounded by people eager for medicines and to listen to the teachings, to whom we ministered until after dark. There for the first time on our touring we slept on the ground; we were so weary that we rested just as well as though we had been in comfortable home beds. The next morning, we secured elephants for ourselves and baggage, and after one day's ride we reached the head waters of the Panga River. We were glad to exchange elephants for canoes. This was the seventh time that we had

crossed this peninsula. We were able to reach many places never before reached by the Christian missionary. In this six months' tour we traveled on ten steamers, twenty elephants, numerous buffalo carts, and canoes, and walked long distances without serious mishap. For the greater part of the time we were in the heart of the Peninsula, cut off from all communication with the outside world; no telegrams, no newspapers and no post offices. We have learned to do without such facilities."

Dr. Dunlap was a keen lover of nature. Siam is a land of wonderful beauty—forest-clad hills, cultivated valleys, rare flowers, and rushing



DR. DUNLAP'S BOAT—The "Kalamazoo"

streams. His sensitive soul eagerly responded to the beauties of the world about him and his letters abound in graphic descriptions, as witness the following:

"The scenery of this island—enticing harbors, broad cocoanut groves, waterfalls, and lofty mountains—was simply charming.

"The Governor of the island proved an attentive host. He led us in many interesting walks through the cocoanut plantations, up romantic ravines, over lofty mountains, to

charming waterfalls, where we saw a great variety of ferns, rare orchids, graceful palms, and many other attractive tropical plants.

"Securing two well manned canoes, we were soon paddling up the broad river Looang, leaving all signs of civilization behind. We greatly enjoyed the beauties of nature, graceful bamboos and palms, here and there, forming charming archways; most beautiful vines draping the large trees, and orchids in charming varieties. We mounted the elephants at the foot of a beautiful mountain.

"On our third day we followed the elephant path through wonderful forests and were much interested in the plants, ferns and orchids in charming variety, palms, sago and tapioca plants, rubber trees and valuable hard woods.

"In its natural scenery this island is very attractive. Mountains about three thousand feet above the sea, charming valleys, ravines and waterfalls. It is rich in cocoanut groves, attractive, shady retreats from the hot sun."

He journeyed by sea as well as land. Many years ago, friends in Kalamazoo, Michigan, presented him with a schooner which he called "The Kalamazoo." In this little boat he and his equally devoted wife, and a few Siamese attendants made long journeys along the coast line and among the adjacent islands, carrying the Gospel to peoples who could not have been reached through the pathless jungles which bordered their villages. This part of his itinerating also brought him many interesting experiences. He wrote:

"We travel in the Mission schooner 'Kalamazoo' from two to four months of the year; by coast steamer, often going deck passage because there are no cabins; by native sail boats, canoes, buffalo carts, on elephants, and on foot, long distances. * * *



THE HOME OF DR. AND MRS. DUNLAP IN TAP TEANG, SIAM

"During our annual tour in the Mission schooner 'Kalamazoo', on the east coast of the Gulf of Siam, we stopped in all the principal harbors on the way. We sailed about four hundred miles, traveled in canoes about one hundred miles up the creeks, and rivers, and took long walks over the plains to visit inland villages. We found here and there a good number of people who were believing in God as the result of teaching on former tours, and the reading of Christian books, and were praying to Him.

"In one of our tours on the west coast of the Gulf of Siam, at Nakawn, we hired a native sail boat, a long dugout with roof over the centre, and sailed thirty miles along the coast to visit some disciples. We had very pleasant sailing, but one night we were caught by a sudden northeast squall, and the mast was twisted off and the sail blown into the sea. For a time there was no little excitement, but our sturdy helmsman soon righted things and we made our way into a small river, on the banks of which the disciples gave us a hearty welcome. They conducted us to their home in a beautiful cocoanut grove, lodged us in a little bamboo hut that they had prepared for our entertainment, and showed us no little hospitality. They gave us the best bananas, cocoanuts, sweet potatoes, watermelons, fish, fowls and eggs that could be found. The ordinary rice they did not consider good enough for the missionaries, so the sisters were soon busy polishing nice white rice for their teachers. Willing hands arranged a place for services, and messengers were sent throughout the plantations inviting their neighbors to come and hear the Gospel. We began each day with a preaching service in the early morning, and close attention made it easy to preach. Then the medicine chest was opened and an hour or more spent in ministering to the sick. The remainder of the day was devoted to teaching

from house to house. At times we walked to distant settlements to hold services in homes of disciples to which all the neighbors were invited."

With faithful and loving ministries like these, the good missionary and his wife were unceasingly occupied. No opportunity to testify for Christ was ever slighted. I have never known a Christian worker who had greater joy in his ministry for souls. His letters and reports fairly glow with it. I could quote scores of sentences like the following:



MRS. EUGENE P. DUNLAP

"There was great joy in telling the precious stories of our Lord to those who had never heard."

"To attend upon the poor little feverish children of the homes and see a large number recover was a delight to our hearts. * * * Our daily services with the twelve disciples of this island were precious indeed, and we had the joy, too, of baptizing several other islanders and a number of little children."

"None of the tradesmen knew about Jesus. They were friendly and listened very closely to our stories about the Saviour of sinful men. It was a pleasure to place His precious Gospel in their hands and know that they would carry it to distant homes."

"In this settlement most of the people had never heard the Gospel. It was a joy to publish the Glad Tidings to them, and the night was well spent in showing them the Bible pictures by means of the Sciopticon. * * *

"I was glad to minister to so many sufferers as we passed along. 'Jesus went about doing good.' Let us follow in His steps."

"Some roughing it, 'tis true, but the joys of the work held us over the rough places."

Near the end of a furlough in 1909, he wrote: "We are now packing for Siam. O, but it will be joyful to return to the Master's work in beloved Siam!"

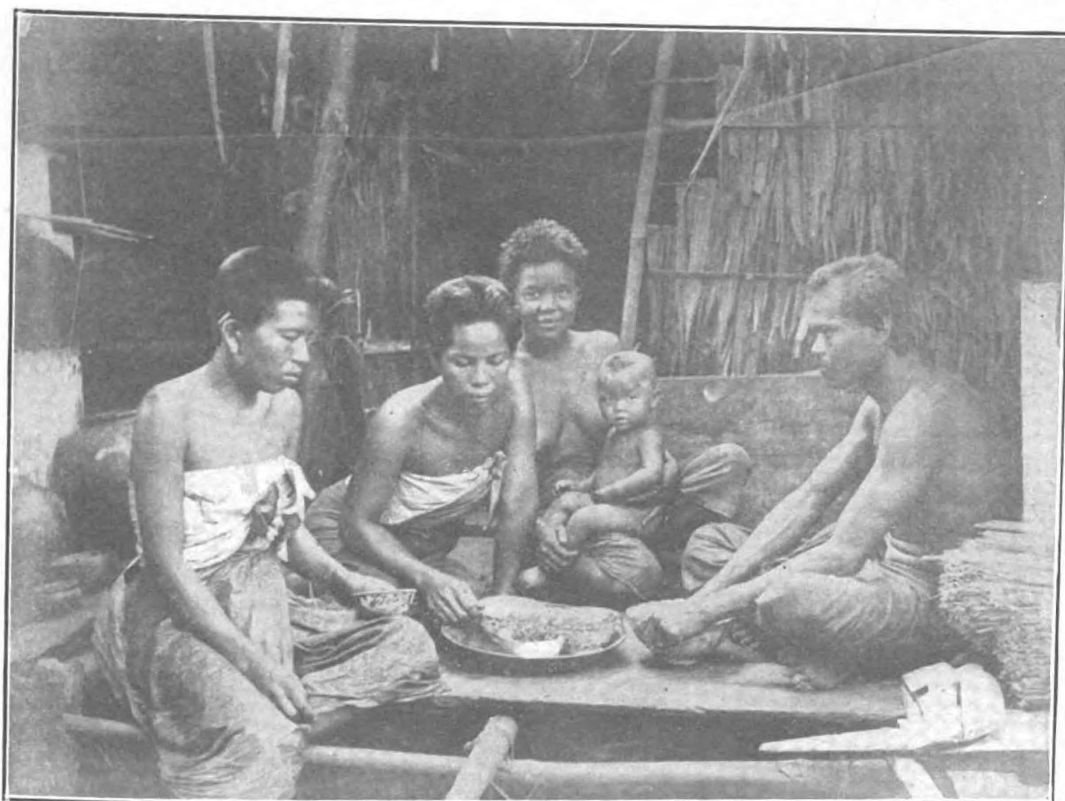
Bits of humor often illuminated his letters. After a nerve-racking experience in a bullock cart over rocks and ruts, he good-naturedly wrote: "The jolting keeps us from having dyspepsia." Of another tour, he says:

"We dismissed our elephants and spent five days in a border town. On the Sabbath I preached in the court house, which was our lodging place. The people of this settlement were the most indolent set that we have seen in Siam. Even money could not persuade them to hull rice for our party, and the question of food grew serious. Seeing the condition of their little children, I prepared a lot of worm powders, which I handed to the mothers with directions. The remedy worked so effectually that the mothers out of gratitude each prepared a large bowl of beautiful white rice for the missionary table. This

is not the first time that we have 'wormed' our way into the hearts of Siam's people."

Dr. Dunlap gained large influence over the Siamese people, both individually and collectively. He loved them and they in turn loved him. Wherever he went, he was welcomed by men and women of high and low degree alike. "We travel in safety," he said, "are always kindly received by the people, and have perfect liberty in our work." The following were common experiences:

"The Governor of this province, a leading Siamese noble, is one of our schoolboys and a staunch supporter of our Mission work. You may be sure



A SIAMESE FAMILY AT DINNER

that he extended his old teachers a hearty welcome, introduced and commended us and our work to all the officials of the province. He entertained us in his own home and furnished us boats and other facilities for our work. Frequently he said in the presence of the people: 'I owe my position and all that I am to the labors of these American missionaries.' There are many officials throughout Siam who might truly say the same; another indirect result of Mission work."

"The High Commissioner of the district, having been informed of the arrival of the missionary party, sent his own steam launch out to meet us and convey us to a beautiful little cottage that His Excellency and lady had prepared for our entertainment. They showed us no little kindness. His Excellency manifested special interest in the medical mission work, and two places were granted for the work: a cottage in his garden and a house in the market place."

He was personally known to and held in high esteem by His Majesty, the King, one of the most enlightened and public-spirited of rulers, always eager to promote the welfare of his people. His relations were particularly close with the father of the present sovereign who frequently counselled with him. I was told when in Bangkok that Dr. Dunlap had easier access to the Royal Palace than anyone else in Siam outside of the members of the Cabinet, and that the King and his Ministers frequently summoned him to conferences. They knew that this missionary, through his extensive travels in various parts of the country, knew conditions in Siam better than anybody else, and they knew too that he was not only intelligent and wise but absolutely unselfish, seeking nothing for himself and thinking only of good for the people to whom he had consecrated his life. He never compromised his missionary message or convictions. He spoke plainly of current evils. Gambling is the national vice of the Siamese. It was licensed and even encouraged by the Government. The monopoly in every town was auctioned off to the highest bidder. The successful concessionaire erected a large building in a central location. Music and theatrical performances added to the attractiveness of the place, and, in the evenings, almost the whole population assembled. There were one hundred and three large gambling houses throughout the interior, besides a great number in the capital. The demoralizing consequences can be readily understood. Dr. Dunlap, cordially aided by the Hon. Hamilton King, then American Minister, frankly represented to the late King that gambling was inimical to the best interests of Siam and that the money that the Government derived from it was obtained at a ruinous cost to character and legitimate industry. The King, a wise and progressive monarch, listened, and the result was the issuance of a royal decree in January, 1905, ordering the abolition of these gambling concessions everywhere outside of Bangkok, where the question involved the revenue in relation to import duties. These could not be changed without the consent of other governments. In itinerating tours, Dr. Dunlap made it a rule to visit prisons and to observe sanitary conditions. Some of the credit for the prison reforms in Siam belongs to him. In his report of one of his long tours, he wrote:

"In Ban Don, the largest market town of this coast, our hearts were made sad by the ravages of that dread disease Asiatic cholera. One day, seven died in the prison. The Governor sent for me and requested that I should try to find the cause of the spread of the disease. I found the prison in good sanitary condition, but traced the trouble to the fact that the prisoners while out on public works were drinking the filthy river water, and recommended that all drinking water be thoroughly boiled and prisoners permitted to drink that alone when out at work. In a few days, the disease disappeared entirely. Thus, humanly speaking, many a poor prisoner's life was saved."

While, however, he asked nothing for himself he did not hesitate to ask for contributions toward the property which was to be used by



A SIAMESE COUNTRY HOME ON STILTS

A typical group coming out to see the foreigner

the Mission for the benefit of the Siamese people themselves. So great was the confidence in him that these appeals met with generous response. The King and Queen, members of the Cabinet, and many Siamese in various official positions contributed toward the purchase of land for mission schools and hospitals, and in other instances the Government assigned land for mission purposes at a merely nominal rent.

As a speaker before American audiences, Dr. Dunlap had remarkable power, and whenever he was known to be at home on furlough, the calls for his addresses were numerous and insistent. Few missionaries of this generation had a wider hearing or stirred his hearers more deeply. Multitudes will never forget his eloquent words, and his graphic description of "How a Governor in Siam found Christ," went all over the country.

In spite of his fame and popularity Dr. Dunlap was as modest as he was devoted. When he was in America in 1908, one of my colleagues showed him a sketch of his career which had been provided for the newspapers in connection with some addresses that Dr. Dunlap was to deliver, in which he was characterized as "easily the foremost foreigner in the Kingdom of Siam, everywhere welcomed by governors, merchants, farmers, and the poorest leper, frequently closeted with King or ministers who can learn from him as from no other the true status

of remote jungle dwellers; or it may be adjudicating cases which by common consent of judge and litigants had been reserved for his arbitration." At the bottom of a copy of that sketch I note the following sentence in Dr. Dunlap's handwriting: "Would it not be better to say: A sinner saved by grace and privileged to preach the unsearchable riches of Christ in Siam."

In a pamphlet published some years ago, entitled "How Shall We Persuade the Siamese to Accept the Gospel," he opened his heart to his missionary brethren. The following extracts eloquently testify to the spirit of the man.

"The word persuade is a fit word. To win the people for the Master, an ounce of persuasion is worth more than a ton of compulsion, ridicule, or sarcasm. The Siamese after all are not very unlike ourselves. You can persuade them a mile, but you cannot drive them an inch. In making up the formula, I would say: about one ounce of argument to every pint of entreaty, well flavored with love. * * * If we would persuade this people to accept the Gospel, we must live the Gospel. How much we shall achieve, if we can truly say to them: 'Follow me as I follow Jesus.' If the love of Jesus constrains me, then the love of Jesus working through me will constrain others. That's a sure rule. * * * A very good way to persuade men to accept the Gospel is to beseech them by the mercies of God. I love to do that—to dwell on the mercies of God in the Lord Jesus. * * * Jesus desires to go, through us, into the homes of this people. * * * Then let us keep this high ideal before us: 'In Christ's stead.' That means that we are to talk to them in the same spirit in which He talked. So must we love to tell men about Jesus far more than we love our meat and drink. No half-hearted entreaty will persuade men. * * * We should not turn away from the most sinful. We may be weary, but we should love such souls more than we love ease in our long verandah chairs. We may be hungry, but if we would persuade poor sinful ones to accept the Gospel we must love them more than we love our good food and luscious mangustines. If you would persuade the Siamese people, especially the very sinful ones, then follow our Saviour's rule as recorded in John 4th chapter. * * * Tact is absolutely essential in persuading men to accept the Gospel. No matter how perfectly you may have learned the language, if you lack tact, then your efforts may drive the Siamese people away from the Gospel. And necessary to tact is a close sympathetic contact with the people. Therefore I say, study the people just as closely and with as much interest, as you study the language."

"Jesus was never rude, Jesus never needlessly spoke a harsh word. Jesus never gave needless pain to a sensitive heart. Jesus was most considerate of human weakness. Jesus was most gentle toward all human sorrow. Jesus never suppressed the truth, but He uttered it in love. Jesus' whole life tells of most considerate thoughtfulness for others. So I believe, that if we would persuade this people to accept the Gospel we should try to change our bluntness and rudeness into true gentleness."

"A cripple, who was told by a disciple of Jesus to call for the medical missionary, replied: 'O, he will not take any notice of a poor loathsome creature like me.' But the disciple answered: 'Yes he will, just try him.' The writer went to that little bamboo hut with the medical missionary, and it was so filthy that it took great effort to enter it. The poor man was covered with foul ulcers. The medical missionary, moved by the spirit of Him whose hand touched the leper, with warm water cleansed those ulcers and I read to the

cripple the wonderful stories of Jesus' love and healing power. The tears ran down the old man's face and he exclaimed: 'O, missionary, I have never seen love like this!' O, the love of Jesus! It broke and won his heart. He became a happy Christian and was baptized in the little hut. We carried the elements of Jesus' broken body and shed blood into that little hut. And there the three of us commemorated His dying love. His love passeth all understanding!"

"It is not science nor intellect nor eloquence that wins souls, but love to Christ pouring over in love to men. Love will give you a delicacy of perception and ingenuity of persuasiveness which no heart shall be able to resist. Love will reconcile the profound scholar to a life among savages and it will carry us through the jungles of Siam to the regions beyond. It will carry the refined and cultured woman with the precious tidings into the most unattractive homes. Love will bear all, believe all, hope all, endure all, if only it may win men for Christ. The true secret of endurance is love. May the love of Christ constrain us! May we be rooted and grounded in it, so that we shall be well prepared to persuade the Siamese people to accept the Gospel."

In spite of Dr. Dunlap's arduous labors in a tropical climate, and his constant exposure in itinerating tours, he enjoyed on the whole good health until 1907 when, in climbing a bamboo ladder to visit a sick man (Siamese houses are set upon poles eight or ten feet from the ground), the ladder broke and he fell and severely injured his leg. He suffered much from this injury and never fully recovered from it, although after a time he continued his work as resolutely as ever. But when he returned to America on his last furlough in December, 1915, it was evident that his physical strength was seriously waning. In February, 1916, while on a journey from Wooster, Ohio, to visit an invalid son in Louisiana, he had to change cars late at night in Alliance, and while quietly waiting in the railway station for his train, he was wantonly attacked by three men who beat him, threw him upon the ground and robbed him of all the money he had with him. "Thus the



SIAMESE CHRISTIAN WOMEN OF BANGKOK IN
NATIVE COSTUME
TEACHERS IN THE HARRIET HOUSE SCHOOL.

The one on the left had four years' preparation in America and now has charge of the first Kindergarten ever opened in Siam. The second instructs in academic, sewing and gymnastic work. The third teaches and conducts the home nursing department.

American heathen," he wrote, "handled me more roughly than I ever suffered from the Siamese heathen and embarrassed us somewhat in the beginning of our furlough."

As the end of his furlough drew near, his physicians frankly advised him and the Board that his remaining time on earth was likely to be short, but he pleaded to be allowed to return and to die among the people whom he loved and for whose evangelization he had consecrated his life. We bade him good-bye, sorrowing that we should see his face no more. When he reached Bangkok, he was welcomed with glad acclaim by the whole city. Missionaries, foreigners in diplomatic and commercial life, and Siamese, from the King to the man in the street, showed him signal honor. His Siamese friends of their own accord had raised a fund with which they had purchased a comfortable residence for him in Bangkok, and they besought him to make that his home for the remainder of his days. But to all pleas he replied: "Yes, but I must be at liberty to visit the jungles when I feel that I must carry the Gospel to regions beyond"; and he insisted on at least visiting Tap Teang, near Trang, the station which he himself had founded in 1910 and for which he had secured the funds during one of his furloughs. At this writing we have not heard where he was when he died, but it probably was at this station.

Newcastle, Pennsylvania, where he was born June 8, 1848, Westminster College and Western Theological Seminary, at which he was graduated in 1871 and 1874, respectively, have reason to count themselves honored in sending forth this great apostle to the Gentiles. The Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions, which appointed him a missionary in 1874, and the Siam Mission which he joined the following year, will always revere the memory of this noble servant of God who was associated with them for nearly half a century. The people of Siam will long remember the man who labored for their temporal and spiritual welfare with such distinguished efficiency and unselfishness; and the bereaved wife and children have a rich heritage of blessing in the memory of such a husband and father. It was a gracious privilege to be permitted to walk with such a man to the very edge of the valley, which was shadow for us but not for him, and to realize that, while we stand wistfully upon its brink, he journeyed calmly on to see face to face the King in His beauty whom on earth he had so tenderly and so devotedly loved.

What a welcome must have been his as he entered the gates of the Heavenly City! After all his toils in this world, he is now

* * * Walking close with Him
In festal robes beyond the sunrise fair,
And dowered with the beauty of the Lord.

* * *

From all his toils for Him he rests in Him,
And all his works for Him do follow him."