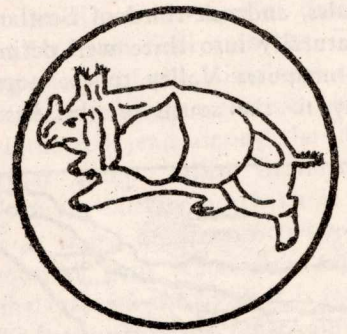


Special mention needs to be made of *The Whole World Kin*, a work which is now out of print, but which gives a very valuable and detailed account of the early years in Assam, of Nathan Brown and his colleagues. Another book, *In A Far Country*, dealing with the life of Miles Bronson and his experiences in the hills, as well as in the plains, has been of great aid. A number of other books, too numerous to mention here, but listed in the Bibliography, dealing with Assam, have been utilized. The majority of these books are written from an individual point of view without any pretention to historical criticism, and deal, for the most part, with the district in which the author was interested personally. The purpose of these books was to stimulate missionary giving rather than to give a critical account of past events.

Twelve years' experience of the writer on the field and frequent consultation with other missionaries have been of inestimable aid in preparing this book. Beyond this the writer is indebted to his professors, Dr. W. L. Ferguson and Dr. Peder Stiansen, for criticism and valuable suggestions, and much credit is due Miss May Halstenrud for her patience during long weary hours of typing the manuscript several times.

It is hoped that the perusal of the following pages will lead the reader to a greater appreciation of the difficulties that had to be encountered in the development of the Baptist mission work in a country such as Assam, with its multitude of tribes and languages. There is indeed no need for disappointment regarding that work. On the contrary, there is encouragement, especially to those who have carried the burden in the heat of the day, and to those who have given liberally in support of the task.

[14]



CHAPTER I

ARVA. FLUMINA. MONTES

The ordinary tourist traveling north from Calcutta is usually attracted by the snow-capped mountains of the Himalayas, and the great summer resort of Bengal, Darjeeling. He forgets to look to his right as he travels, not realizing that he is passing one of the most favored portions of this earth and, in many respects, one of the most important regions of the Indian Empire. Assam has been considered one of the backward provinces; but since, from a political point of view, it has not caused the British government much trouble, its economic importance has largely been overlooked. This is very interesting; but, it may be asked, what has it to do with a history of the development of Christianity in Assam? Just this: It serves as an introduction to one of the most fascinating stories of Christian history to be found in the East.

Assam is located in the northeast corner of India proper, lying between the twenty-third and twenty-

[15]