Assignment for ENGL 877 (Advanced Topics in the Digital Humanities: Digital Project Development). An initial exploration and selection of sources on the One More Voice digital archive and elaboration of themes within the sources.

Themes

Throughout the exploration of One More Voice’ archive collection, several themes caught my attention. I noticed that among the recovered work section, a lot of contributors are directly related to the lost of explorer and missionary David Livingstone. The expedition led by Henry Morton Stanley to find him and announce to the world his fate led to many indigenous people’s voices being recorded. In “The Liberian War. To the Editor of the Times’” and “Central South Africa.”, a common theme was that it recorded the death of a European and a Christian, respectively. A connection I is that voices of indigenous peoples are only recorded when it relates to the death of a European or someone adjacent to a European.

To widen the scope, the other periodical pieces chosen here are from different parts of the world with Christianity being the connecting points. These pieces introduce readers to “exotic” places only because its related to the expansion of Christendom. These pieces might as well be the same as reports from the frontiers of the British Empire but it is easy to miss this connection due to their religious nature.

For the book-length works, I am fascinated by the Eaton sisters. Both were Chinese-Canadian authors but each took a different approach to the question of fitting into the United States. Edith (Sui Sin Fa) took pride in her Chinese heritage while Winnifred (Otono Watanna) seemed ashamed enough to write under a Japanese pen name. Based on summaries by ChatGPT, this dichotomy is also present within their works. The subject matter they wrote about also surged in relevance since the COVID-19 pandemic brought into question once more what it means to be an Asian American. I am also interested in their works because I too am a result of the Chinese diaspora.

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