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Cover: Bishop William Taylor (1821-1902). See first article in this issue.

METHODIST HISTORY
Charles Yrigoyen, Jr., Editor

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BISHOP WILLIAM TAYLOR AND METHODIST MISSION: A STUDY IN NINETEENTH CENTURY SOCIAL HISTORY

DAVID BUNDY

PART II: SOCIAL STRUCTURES IN COLLISION

The influence of Missionary Bishop William Taylor extended beyond his intense efforts in Australia, India, South America and Africa. His example and the legends of his effective mission activity were significant for groups as different as Norwegian Methodism\(^1\) and Chilean Pentecostalism.\(^2\) There is little doubt that he did more than any other individual to expand the geographical frontiers of Methodism during the last half of the nineteenth century. However, Taylor’s independent entrepreneurial style led to conflict with established mission organizations. Partly because of that conflict, little effort has been made to understand the dynamics of the life and ministry of Taylor or his contribution to missiology.

The first part of this essay examined the development of William Taylor “From Campmeeting Convert to International Evangelist,” focusing on the social, cultural and economic structures which determined the parameters of his possibilities.\(^3\) His youth, early ministry, missionary experience in California were narrated on the basis of available evidence, as were the financial reversals and Taylor’s effort to repay the debt incurred. This debt took him around the world. It finally brought him to India where we continue the description and analysis of his life.

Taylor as Missionary: Phase II, India and South America, 1870-1884

*India, November 1870-Spring 1875.* Taylor's arrival in India would have dramatic results for Taylor, for Methodist missions, and, especially, for the Methodist Church in India. He was approaching fifty years of age when he arrived in India. The past decade had been spent with Wesleyan Methodists, and there appears to have been little contact with American Methodist clergy in leadership positions since the appointment to California in 1849. Taylor and the church to which he would now again try to relate had both changed. Thoburn, who had extended an invitation to In-

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\(^1\)Anon. “Pintseløfset,” *Kristelig Tidende* 18, 23 (Fredag 7 Juni 1889), 177-178; Anon. “Bishop William Taylor,” *Kristelig Tidende* 18, 23 (Fredag 7 Juni 1889), 179.

\(^2\)See below, note 68.