

World of Missions

King Mtesa and the Bible.

In a recent speech Mr. Henry M. Stanley, the celebrated explorer, told the remarkable story of a missionary Bible. He said: Janet Livingstone, the sister of David Livingstone, made me a present of a richly-bound Bible. Not liking to risk it on the voyage round the Victoria Nyanza, I asked Frank Po-cock, my companion, to lend me his somewhat worn and stained copy; and I sailed on my way to Uganda, little thinking what a revolution in Central Africa that book would make. We stayed in Uganda some time, and one day, during a morning levee, the subject of religion was broached, and I happened to strike an emotional chord in the king's heart by making a casual reference to angels. King and chiefs were moved as one man to hear more about angels. My verbal description of them was not sufficient. "But," said I, "I have a book with me which will tell you far better, not only what angels are, but what God and His blessed Son are like, to whom the angels are but ministering angels." "Fetch it," they eagerly cried. "Fetch it now; we will wait." The book was brought, opened, and I read the tenth chapter of Ezekiel, and the seventh chapter of the Revelation from the ninth verse to the end; and as I read the eleventh and twelfth verses you could have heard a pin drop. And when they heard the concluding verse, "They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more, neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat," I had a presentiment that Uganda would eventually be won for Christ. I was not permitted to carry that Bible away. Mtesa never forgot the wonderful words, nor the startling effect they had on him and on his chiefs. As I was turning away from his country, his messenger came and cried, "The book! Mtesa wants the book!" It was given to him. To-day the Christians number many thousands in Uganda, and they have proved their faith at the stake, under the knobstick, and under torture.

The British Consul at Chungking, West China, reports that, as the result of the rebellion, there had been, up to the beginning of November last, in the district between Chungking and Chentu, twenty-five Roman Catholic chapels destroyed, thousands of their native Christians had been rendered homeless, and perhaps sixty or seventy killed. In addition, the Protestant missions had suffered considerably.

Jungle Tribes' Mission.

The following letter from Mr. John McNeil, the Irish Assembly's missionary in charge of the Dohad station, will be read with much interest by the friends of the Jungle Tribes' Mission:

"You will be sorry to hear that the plague has come to Dohad. Up till this date (18th ult.) there have been seven cases in the town, and during the last two days there has been the greatest consternation, the people flying in all directions.

"The population of Dohad is 14,000; to-day there are not so many hundreds in the town.

"Our hope is that the people will stay away for fifteen or twenty days, so that the plague may be stamped out. The Bheels are very much afraid of the epidemic, and to-day they refused to send their children to the Mission School lest some harm should befall them. Poor creatures, they believe anything a Brahman tells them, and the present is the Brahman's opportunity for cheating and deceiving his weaker brother. The Bheels are to-day saying that the English have sent the plague, and this is certainly a Brahman lie, which is meant to hinder the Lord's work. We praise God that, notwithstanding this and other opposition of Satan, the Bheels are being blessed. Yesterday (March 17) three men were baptized here on profession of their faith. Two of them are Bheels."

Send the Light.

By Kenneth Brown.

Hear the plaintive cry of heathen,
Groaning in the densest night;
"Christians, ye who have the Gospel,
We are dying, send us light."

Millions plead in far-off Indi,
Ceylon to Himal'ya's height;
"Christians, ye who have the Gospel,
We are dying, send us light."

And from China's shores they're crying,
And from Afric's starless night;
"Christians, ye who have the Gospel,
We are dying, send us light."

Yes, they plead within our home-land,
"Neath our star-flecked banner bright;
"Christians, ye who have the Gospel,
We are dying, send us light."

Shall we Christians be so selfish?
Shall we all these pleadings slight?
No, we'll heed our Master's bidding,
We will spread the Gospel light.

There are at least 300 native preachers in the Livingstone Mission, and most of the male Christians are preachers.

Religion in Cuba.

The question of religion in Cuba is one that will need to be handled with the greatest delicacy. Roman Catholicism has been so long established by law and has accumulated such large properties, that it has the decided advantage of the Protestant Churches. It is not speaking rudely nor uncharitably to say that the chief officials of the Roman Church have developed a temper which will make it difficult for them to look with ease upon the spectacle of absolute equality in religious affairs. To persecute the Roman Church would be foolish and wicked; to patronize it would be equally so. Hereafter no differences ought to be made between the different ecclesiastical organizations. Let each one of them have a fair chance, and none of them anything more. If the various Protestant bodies wish to establish missions, that is their own lookout, and they have a perfect right to go forward with their work. That they should be careful about the quality of the men whom they send into the field does not need to be said. An ignoramus or a fanatic is sure to do more harm than good, and to injure the very cause which he desires to advance. A corrupt or designing man may be a source of infinite harm. Already some such men are in the field, and are writing lurid letters home for help in prosecuting their work. —E. E. Hoss, D.D.

A strange tale of human sacrifice comes from Bombay. A Hindu laborer was suddenly seized by some men employed in a cotton-spinning mill, and by them thrust into a furnace beneath the boiler of a steam-engine used in the mill. The man, being very strong, managed to free himself and get back to his hut, terribly burnt about the head, arms and chest. He survived to tell his story to the police, and then died of tetanus. The theory is that he was put in the furnace as a sacrifice to the engine, which had not been working well of late.

The Mission Record says: "In March, 1837, the women of the Church of Scotland decided to send out their first missionary to India. Then there was not a single zenana open to a white woman; to-day our missionaries visit 157. Then the one missionary that we sent out started the first girls' school; to-day we have 49 schools, with over 3,000 pupils in them. Our one missionary has increased to 36, and there are 1,084 women in zenanas under instruction."

The Church of Scotland Indian Mission at Chamba has had a pleasing experience. The mission church became unsafe, and an appeal for funds was about to be sent home, when the Raiah, who is a Hindu, and was educated at Eton, heard of the matter, and has offered to build a new church at his own expense. Such a gift is wholly unique.