

cellent standing, though no longer connected with the Board of that denomination, is to open work among the higher classes of China, which include: (1) The mandarins, military and civil; (2) the local gentry; (3) the literati; (4) the nobility; (5) the leaders of charitable, religious, and reformatory movements. They are called the higher classes simply on account of the superior influence which they possess. Mr. Reid's aim is to endeavor to reach these because their influence upon the millions is so unlimited. The annual expense of the new mission will be \$3000, and \$7000 is the estimated expense at the outset, which will be spent largely in books, photographic and electrical apparatus, a stereoscope, a polariscope, a microscope, a stereopticon, globes, fixtures, and paintings.

—Shanghai, beyond any other city in the empire, is a centre for missionary influence. Fifteen societies are found here and 3 hospitals which treat nearly 50,000 patients a year. There are 5 boarding schools and 2 colleges. More than 2000 children receive instruction in the various schools. They have 78 missionaries and nearly 200 native preachers, teachers, and Bible women working in the city and immediate vicinity. These 15 societies include 2 Bible societies which have scattered portions of the Bible all over the province. The Presbyterian mission press is located in Shanghai. More than 1,000,000 copies of books and tracts were printed the past year. There is also Bible work carried on for the Japanese.

#### AFRICA.

—On a tablet in a church of Algiers is the name of "Devereux Spratt, 1641." The traveller naturally inquires what that means, and he is told that Devereux Spratt, an Englishman, was captured with 120 others in 1641 by the Algerian pirates. He was put to work with his fellow-slaves on the fortifications around Algiers. Cut off from congenial company, he looked to God

for sympathy and strength, and God's grace proved, as always, sufficient. Finding his fellow-captives full of despair, he began to cheer them with words of faith and hope; and soon he had gathered about him, through his faithful testimony, a little band of praying and worshipping Christians. Through the influence of his brother in England, after several years, Devereux Spratt was ransomed, and the order for his release was brought to the fortifications. His fellow-captives rejoiced with tears at his good fortune, but expressed regret that their leader was to leave them. Devereux Spratt, however, refused to accept the ransom, and remained until he died a slave among slaves, that he might continue to comfort those whom God had brought to Christ through him.—*Rev. A. C. Dixon.*

—An officer of the Congo Free State writes an interesting article in a Belgian paper respecting the climate of the equatorial section of the Congo. Notwithstanding the fact that this region lies directly under the equator, the writer states that the heat is far from being so excessive as is supposed. He illustrates his favorable view of the climate by stating the case of the Rev. Charles Banks and his wife, two American missionaries who have lived at Equatorville seven years. Their three children were born there, and all are surprisingly healthy. The Belgian official attributes this to the fact that Mr. Banks used great care in the location of his cottage, and uses native fruits, vegetables, and milk altogether. He avoids all canned goods, using for meat native goats, sheep, and poultry; uses goat's milk instead of condensed milk, and raises his own vegetables, which, being fresh, are far preferable to the canned goods from Europe.

—Says the *Missionary Herald*: "Probably no city in the world has had a more remarkable growth than Johannesburg in the South African republic. Starting from nothing in 1886, it is now a large and well-built city,