

his accounts of the atrocities committed by the Mohammedan slave-raiders in the newly opened regions of Africa; and as a result of these addresses, new anti-slavery societies sprang up in almost all European countries.

Urged on by public opinion, the civilized powers, including the United States, met at the Brussels Conference of 1888-89, and in the hundred articles of the Brussels Act laid down the rules which should govern them in the suppression of the African slave-trade, and in the gradual abolition of domestic slavery. Since the Brussels Conference the principal Arab slave-raiders in the Lualababas, in Nyassaland, and in German East Africa, have been brought to terms by a series of military campaigns. From one end of the Sudan to the other, however, open slave raids are going on unchecked; and within the boundaries of nearly all protectorates slave-trading operations are still carried on by the natives themselves. The estimate of the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society, placing the number of victims annually murdered in this inhuman business at 500,000, seems to be rather an underestimate than otherwise. A rapid survey of the great Dark Continent—5,000 miles long by 4,800 wide—will help the reader to grasp the possibility of such a state of things.

SLAVERY AS IT STILL EXISTS.

"In Morocco," says a resident missionary, "the traffic in human flesh is making regrettable development. Children of tender years, as well as pretty young women, are sold in the most shameful fashion. Heart breaking are the stories from the lips of these slaves of indescribable horrors in crossing the desert plains—a camel journey of 40 days' duration." The *Anti-Slavery Reporter* tells of Jewish and Moorish women who were stripped and exposed for sale. In Sus and Terudant there are houses for breeding black children, and the little human chattels always find purchasers, not only among the Moors, but also among the Jews. "There is scarcely a single Jewish protégé under the American or Brazilian flag who has not slaves."

In Tripoli the condition is not much better.

On the west coast of the Red Sea a brisk trade in slaves and eunuchs is carried on with impunity. "The many little harbors formed by the coral reefs," says Mr. J. Theo. Bent, "offer every assistance to Arab dhows in coming over and secretly obtaining their cargoes."

In his vast domains the "Khalifa has a large number of 'zarebas,' or armed stations, whence his men start on their slave raids. The captured men are drafted into the army, where, no doubt, they become slave-hunters themselves; the women and children are sold to the Khalifa's faithful followers."

In the small islands of Zanzibar and Pemba, which are owned and governed by Great Britain, more than half the population consists of slaves, most of whom have recently been smuggled in against formal treaties.* From Pemba and other places slaves are exported to Arabia and Persia, and 1,500 dhows are said to be engaged in this business. The treatment of the slaves on the clove plantations is so "humane," that seven years is the average of a slave's life. As to domestic slavery in Mohammedan homes, Mr. G. F. Elliott, author of a "Naturalist in Mid-Africa," says: "Both

slave-boys and slave-girls are hopelessly depraved. The immorality is such that probably not one quarter of those who die are replaced by those brought up in the household."

The latest official report of the German Colonial Office acknowledges that slave-trading still exists in German East Africa, and that its suppression is necessarily slow.

From Nyassaland a missionary writes:

"The Angoni tribe possesses from 100,000 to 150,000 slaves. The sole possession of these poor creatures is a strip of goat or cat skin around their loins, frequently only a little bark. They are kept in subjection by two species of terrorism. The first is the spear; the second is the poison ordeal, which is administered to the friends and relatives of a fugitive slave, sometimes to fifty persons at a time. In one village, recently, eleven persons lay dead from this cause."

In Madagascar, the recent abolition of slavery by the French government is effective only where French rule is acknowledged and enforced.

NOMINAL FREEDOM, BUT REAL SLAVERY.

In the Portuguese possessions, slavery is legally abolished, but the law can be applied only where European authorities are strongly implanted. The sugar-cane and coffee plantations are worked by imported blacks, who are bought and treated like slaves, but who are officially termed contract laborers. In the native language, the only one which they understand, they are still called slaves. Writing recently to a friend, an American missionary says: "Rum plantations are being opened all around us. These people who sit in darkness, know no better than to sell themselves and their children for this poison." Then he gives instances of cruelties witnessed by a church member, once himself a slave. We quote one:

"A slave ran away from a plantation. He was caught and brought back in the evening. Then he was taken under a tree, and all the slaves of the plantation were called to witness his punishment. The white planter poured a bottle of kerosene over his head and lit it with a match. Every one who uttered a word of protest was thrashed with a whip. The poor slave, burnt blind, with the scalp and skin of his face hanging down on his shoulders, was locked in a small room, and his low, mournful cry, 'water, water, water,' was heard by all the slaves till nearly morning, and then all was quiet. The third day the door was unlocked, and the decayed mass of flesh and bones was buried in the road. I was asked whether I wished to see the place."

HORRORS OF SLAVERY.

In the cannibal region on the Mobanghi River, both in French and Congo State territory, slaves are bought and killed for food. They far outnumber the free population, and form the regular currency.

In British Old Calabar, the bulk of the population is composed of slaves, and the important palm-oil trade of the Niger Delta is very largely the result of slave labor. In an official report, Sir John Kirk says of the Brass tribes:

"They are a mixed race, recruited largely by the purchase of slaves from the pagan cannibal tribes, chiefly the Ibo people. Slaves are generally obtained when young. They grow up in the family, but are always liable to be sold. If human sacrifices are needed, it would be from these that the victims would first be taken."

Rev. C. H. Robinson, the latest authority on Hausaland, between Lake Tshad and the Niger River, states that "there are usually about 500 slaves on sale in the Kano market. Every town possesses its slave market, the annual tribute payable by the smaller town to the larger, and by

* The daily press has just published a telegram, dated Zanzibar, April 6, in which the abolition of legal slavery, through a decree of the puppet Sultan, is announced. The government will pay compensation for all the slaves legally held. Yielding to the vigorous campaign led for many years by the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society, and to many memorials and deputations from churches and missionary societies, the British Government is thus, at last, putting an end to the scandalous anomaly it has so long tolerated in Zanzibar.