

country through which Wissman passed has now been depopulated by slave traders and has become a desolate wilderness.

When the French missionaries arrived, ten years ago, at the frontiers of Manyema, the most populous province near them, it was completely covered with villages and farms; while now the slave-traders of Tippu Tib have converted the greater portion of this region—as large as one-third of France—into a sterile desert, where the only trace of its former inhabitants is to be found in the bones of the dead.

This devastating work, it must be remembered, is not an occasional thing; it is continually going on, and if no means of checking it can be devised it is only a question of time before every native settlement, however prosperous and strong, will be overrun and rendered desolate by the over-advancing hordes of slave-drivers. Not a single day passes without a caravan of slaves crossing Lake Tanganika; on every road the traveller meets long troops of slaves; and on the seas and round the coast he comes in contact with Arab dhows crammed full of the same miserable creatures. In this way it will require only a short time to complete the depopulation of Africa.

A word must be said about that terrible slave march, which Professor Drummond characterizes as "worse than death," and whose horrors have been so often described by Livingstone and other travellers that our readers cannot be unfamiliar with them.

The slaves, having been captured, are taken to the headquarters of the East Coast traders, where the yoke is made secure, and this is allowed to remain upon a slave night and day without being once taken off. The constant rubbing upon the neck chafes the skin, and gradually ugly wounds begin to fester under the burning sunshine. The men who appear the strongest, and whose escape is feared, have their hands tied and sometimes their feet, in such fashion that walking becomes a torture to them, and on their necks are placed the terrible gores or taming stick. The yoke is a young tree, with forked branches. It is generally about five or six feet long, and from three to four feet in diameter. One examined by a traveller was about twenty-eight pounds in weight, but he was told that refractory slaves are often placed in yokes weighing fifty pounds or more. Through each prong of the fork a hole is bored for the reception of an iron pin, which, after the neck of the slave has been placed in the fork, is made secure by a blacksmith. The opposite end is lashed to the corresponding end of another yoke, in the fork of which another slave is held, and thus the poor creatures have to march, carrying besides this intolerable weight, a load of provisions or ivory slung across the centre of the pole. Other slaves are in gangs of about a dozen each, with an iron collar let into a long iron chain.

And the women!—says Mr. Moir, of the African Lakes Company, who describes the start of one of these caravans which he witnessed: "I can hardly trust myself to think or speak of them—they were fastened to chains or thick bark ropes. Very many, in addition to their heavy weight of grain or ivory, carried little brown babies, dear to their hearts as the white man's child to his. The double weight was almost too much, and still they struggled wearily on, knowing full well that when they showed signs of fatigue, not the slave's ivory, but the living child would be torn from them and thrown aside to die. One poor old woman I could not help noticing. She was carrying a biggish boy who should have been walking, but whose thin, weak legs had evidently given way; she was tottering already; it was the supreme effort of a mother's love—and all in vain; for the child, easily recognizable, was brought into camp a couple of hours later by one of my hunters who found him on the path. We had him cared for, but his poor mother would never know. Already, during the three days' journey from Lindwe, death had been freeing the captives. It was well for them; still we could not help shuddering as in the darkness was heard the howl of the hyenas along the track, and realized only too fully the reason why."

"The little children are rarely tied," says Mr. Johnson, "except with their heart-strings. Their attachment to their mothers, and the mothers' determination not to be parted from their children, combine to carry them along with the slave caravan—as long, that is to say, as their poor little legs can bear them."

Thus they march all day; at night, when they stop to rest, a few handfuls of raw "sorgho" are distributed among them, and this is all their food. As soon as any begin to fail, their conductors approach those who appear to be most exhausted and deal them a terrible blow on the nape of the neck. A single cry and the victims fall to the ground in the convulsions of death. Terror for a time inspires the weakest with strength, but each time one breaks down the horrible scene is repeated. Dr. Nachtigal tells that once when travelling in Central Africa he was obliged to attach himself to an Arab slave gang, and that the drivers deliberately cut the throats of those who could not march; and Cardinal Lavigerio informs us that his missionaries "have seen these monsters, boiling with rage, draw their swords, with which they can cut off a head with a single blow, and lop off first an arm and then a foot of their victims, and, seizing these limbs throw them on the verge of some neighbouring forest, calling out to the terrified troop, "There goes to attract the leopard which will come and teach you to march."

Captain Elton, in his "Eastern and Central Africa," says: "When hurrying through an inhospitable and impoverished district, the leaders of the slave caravan could not stop to disengage the fainting from the chain-gang, but lopping the head above the ring confining the

neck, allowed it to roll out of the path, while the disengaged body was kicked on one side with a curse on its feebleness; or, if food failed, babes were snatched from their mothers' arms and flung into the adjacent jungle lest they should deprive even one still healthy slave of the strength to proceed." In Livingstone's journals we constantly come across such entries as these: "Wherever we took a walk, human skeletons were to be seen in every direction." "Passed a slave woman shot or stabbed through the body." "Found a number of slaves with slave sticks, abandoned by their master for want of food." "It was wearisome to see the skulls and bones scattered about everywhere."

"The number of skulls," says General Gordon, "along the road is appalling. I have ordered the skulls which lay about here in great number, to be piled in a heap as a memento to the natives of what the slave dealers have done to their people." "The great roads of the Sahara," Cardinal Lavigerio has told his hearers, "are to be traced by the bones of slaves who have dropped out of the ranks, or been brutally slaughtered as feeble and useless by the slave-drivers on their long marches down to the coast. It is, moreover, affirmed as a simple fact, that if a traveller were to lose his way by any of the three great routes from the east or north of Africa into the interior, he might find it by tracing the bones and skeletons of these miserable creatures."

To end the horrible traffic will be hard. As has recently been said: "Slavery is a grounded and hereditary tradition in many parts of Africa, and is almost inseparable from the ignorance and ferocity of the tribes. To crush it out time and large expense are necessary. It is not the work of a year; rather is it the slow task of a generation. The main thing now is to stop the hideous traffic that has been the horror of the Dark Continent and the infamy of its European protectorate. This is too big a job for one nation. It requires the co-operation of all the Powers holding African possessions, and the action of Germany and England in forming a blockade practically forces that co-operation upon other nations, however reluctantly France or Italy may enter into the humane alliance."—*Illustrated Christian Weekly*.

NEWSPAPER CRITICISM.

It is a privilege every newspaper reserves to itself to criticize, adversely if needs be, for the public's benefit, anything in which the public is deeply interested.

It is the custom of H. H. Warner & Co., proprietors of the renowned Kidney and liver cure, better known as "Warner's Safe Cure," to flood the country with medical pamphlets. The writer has taken the liberty to examine one of these marvellous little books, and finds food for criticism, but before indulging in it, will give our readers some quotations therefrom, from the highest medical authorities, which we believe worthy of consideration. Under the head of "No Distinctive Symptoms Apparent," we find:

First—More adults are carried off in this country by chronic kidney disease than by any other one malady except consumption.—Thompson.

Second—Deaths from such diseases are increasing at the rate of 250 per cent a decade.—Edwards.

Third—Bright's Disease has no symptoms of its own, and may long exist without the knowledge of the patient or practitioner, as no pain will be felt in the kidneys or their vicinity.—Robert.

Fourth—In the fatal cases—and most cases have hitherto been fatal—the symptoms of diseased kidneys will first appear in extremely different organs of the body as stated above.—Thompson.

Fifth—Only when the disease has reached its final and fatal stages may the usual symptoms of albumen and tube casts appear in the water, and will great pain rack the diseased organs.—Thompson.

Sixth—Bright's Disease, which usually has three stages of development, is a universal disease in England and America.—Roberts and Edwards.

Thompson is authority for saying that more adults are carried off in this country by kidney disease than any other malady except Consumption. Under Warner's "Safe Cure" article on Consumption, we find a paragraph claiming to be a quotation from a publication issued by Brompton Hospital for Consumptives, London, England, which states that 52 per cent. of the patients of that institution have unsuspected kidney disorder. Dr. Herman Brehmer, an eminent German authority, also says that Consumption is always due to deficient nutrition of the lungs because of bad blood.

Medical science can no longer dispute the fact that the kidneys are the principal blood purifying organs of the human system, and if they are diseased and thus fail to expel the uric acid poison or the waste matter of the blood, as the blood passes through these two great organs, the "Safe Cure" claim is correct, and the reasoning of its proprietor holds good.

There is no doubt but that in too many instances the medical fraternity doctor for symptoms, instead of striking at the root of the disease, and that under this form of treatment many patients die.

DURING the past year, the total number of Bibles issued by the National Bible Society of Scotland, has been 163,481, of Testaments 171,509, of portions 227,161—total 562,151. Germany has received the largest number of Bibles, and China the largest of portions. At Glasgow exhibition, 22,086 Scriptures were sold, and every foreign attendant, including Parsees, Buddhists and Mohammedans thankfully accepted a gift of the Bible in their own tongue.

British and Foreign.

WINE, says the *Daily Telegraph*, is made of all sorts of things, even of grapes.

THE consumption per head of fermented and distilled drinks in Paris increased threefold between 1850 and 1880.

SIR WILLIAM THOMPSON is to preside at the annual meeting in May of the Christian Evidence Society in Exeter Hall.

THE Rev. Thomas Hill, for forty three years pastor of Wil-lison Free Church, Dundee, asks for a colleague and successor.

DR. EDMOND is to preside at the induction of Rev. John McNeill and the preacher appointed is Rev. Z. B. Woffendale, of Somers Town.

IN Peebles Presbytery, a letter was read from the Earl of Wemyss, sympathising with the mission established last summer in the St. Mary's Loch district.

THE Working Men's Sabbath Protection Association of Glasgow, suggests that on the renewal of the tramway lease steps should be taken to put a stop to Sabbath traffic.

FOWLIS CHURCH, an ancient and interesting structure, of which Rev. P. L. Barr is minister, will shortly be renovated, three-fourths of the \$5,000 required having been subscribed.

THE Rev. W. Dickie, M.A., Perth, has accepted the call to Downhill, Glasgow, and has been loosed from his charge by Perth Presbytery. His induction takes place on 14th March.

THE Jewish reformer, Miss Anna Maria Goldsmith, who many years ago published a translation from the German of heterodox Jewish sermons, died lately in her eighty-third year.

THE Rev. R. Blair, M.A., Cambuslang, at a meeting of the Gaelic society of Glasgow lately, gave a lecture on the fireside entertainments that were wont to be held in Highland clachans.

MR. A. JAMIESON, a Scottish engineer who has just published a manual on the steam engine, asserts that arithmetic is not now mastered in Scotland nearly so thoroughly as it used to be.

THE Bishop of Salford says that of about every six funerals in Manchester, one is that of a pauper. More than half the poverty and misery of the city is, in his opinion, due to drunkenness.

A FOURTH congregation in connection with the English Presbyterian Church has been established in Wales, viz., at the Mumbles, Glamorganshire. Rev. Douglas Reid, M.A., is the first minister.

AT Cardiff united evangelistic meetings originating in the week of prayer have been crowned by seventy conversions, the reclaimed including two or three notorious unbelievers, disciples of Ingersoll.

BRITISH seamen continue to grow more temperate, and the committee of the Liverpool Sailors' Home testify that the example set by the more sober Scandinavians, has contributed very largely to this result.

THE Rev. Thomas Burns, of Lady Glenorchy's, Edinburgh, stated at a social meeting of his congregation that during the past year 143 names had been added to the communion roll, the membership now numbering 1,062.

THE Rev. John Forgan, of Bombay, has accepted the charge of the Union Church at Simla for next season. Mr. Forgan has intimated the resignation of his charge in Bombay, and the congregation are looking for a successor.

MR. JAMES SCOTT, treasurer of the Sabbath-school society of St. George's Road Church, Glasgow, was presented lately with a Bible and other books on his removal to Ardrossan. A paper was read from Rev. R. S. G. Anderson, B.D., on "First Impressions of Canada."

MR. OSCAR WILDE says that in the English Church, a man succeeds, not through his capacity for belief, but through his capacity for disbelief. It is the only church where the sceptic stands at the altar, and where St. Thomas is regarded as the ideal apostle.

AT the recent farewell meeting in the Synod Hall, Edinburgh, to the departing missionaries, Mr. Duncan M'Laren presided, Dr. Shoolbred gave an address to the missionaries, and among the speakers were Principal Cairns, Professor Calderwood, and Rev. John Smith.

THE Rev. John McNeill, at the morning service on a recent Sabbath in Mr. Spurgeon's tabernacle, preached on the rich young ruler; and in the evening he touched on the condition of the east end of London. There was a large attendance in the morning and at night the tabernacle was crowded.

DUMFARTON U. P. Presbytery, are against the Synod's proposal as to temperance societies, and they disapprove of the overture as to supervision of congregations in so far as the institution of a central synodical committee is concerned, which they consider would interfere unduly with Presbyteries.

IT is indeed sad to hear that Dr. Leonard Schmitz, formerly of Edinburgh, is compelled to toil for a living at eighty-two; it was while holding an examination at Portsmouth for the University of London, that he met with an accident in the streets which nearly proved fatal. A subscription on his behalf has been opened under influential auspices.

DR. MACGREGOR, of St. Cuthbert's, Edinburgh, speaking at Lady Glenorchy's congregational meeting, said the Church of Scotland was growing in the love of her people, and of those outside the Church. In the old days the work fell entirely on the ministers, but one of the best features of the Church of to-day was the noble band of workers associated with ministers.

THE missionary, Mr. Arthur Brookes, whose murder was recently reported, was an artisan missionary on the books of the London Missionary Society, and it was the knowledge of the successful work accomplished by the deceased and one or two others that induced the society to advocate the new departure in sending out more men who have not necessarily gone through a course of college training.

THE membership of St. Giles', Edinburgh, during the incumbency of Dr. Lees, which has extended over eleven years, had 1,239 added to it. Of these there have come from city churches under the ecclesiastical commissioners, 212; other Established Churches in the city, 115; Established Churches elsewhere, 254; Free Church, 67; Episcopal, 65; U.P., 78; other denominations, 48; and first communion, 400. Of the 212 the largest number, 51, were from Old Greyfriars, St. George's being next with 26, and the Tron third with 24.