

Young People's Department.



CIVILIZED HOTTENTOTS.

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WHERE are a great many different kinds of colored people in Africa, such as the Kaffirs, Zulus and Hottentots. Some have supposed the Hottentots to be the most ancient of all. They live in the southern part of Africa and are in the Diocese of Cape Town. It seems to have been their custom always to wear a sort of long cloak, covered on one side with fur. The side covered with fur they wore inside in the winter and outside in summer, but now many of them dress like white people. The white farmers employ them as laborers, but as a rule they have to be watched, for they are inclined to be lazy and sometimes they will steal. Most of the white farmers in that part of the country are Dutch, from Holland, and are called Boers, which is the Dutch word for "farmers." These Boers get all they can out of their Hottentot servants and do very little for them. They are not cruel to them but they make them work a great deal. As to their souls they never seem to give the least thought concerning them. A missionary once called at the house of one of these Dutch farmers in Africa and asked him if he would not allow his servants to come in to prayers. He said he would as soon think of bringing in his dogs to prayers as his Hottentots. The missionary said nothing, but he read the passage of Scripture where the Saviour said to a poor woman who applied to him for help, "It is not meet to take the children's bread and give it to dogs," the woman with ready wit replying "Truth, Lord, yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their master's table." The farmer took the lesson to himself and afterwards had his servants in at prayer time.

But are there not even in this Christian country too many masters and mistresses who do not care for the souls of their servants? At least there are a great many who seldom say anything to them about religion or the Saviour. So in this respect the Hottentots are not much worse treated than many white servants.

The missionaries, however, care for the souls of these poor people. Their color and lowly condition is nothing to them. They know that Christ died for them and therefore Christ must be preached to them. Sometimes these people will go a long way to attend a church service and generally on foot. Leaving home sometimes in the middle of Saturday night they will travel on foot a long distance, attend divine service and arrive home late on Sunday night. There is a bishop of our Church at Capetown and many of his clergy preach to these Hottentots and try to make them Christians; but it is slow work and sometimes discouraging. They are a peculiar looking people as you see by this picture, yet they have souls, and when properly taught live good, upright lives. Christianity helps them a great deal. Of course when they are baptized they do not all continue to be good Christians, but in this they are not different from white people. How many baptized white people are there who do not continue to be good Christians! We must remember this when we talk about the heathen. But in any case we must teach them all about Christ for he is the Saviour of the world. The Hottentots, like many white people, are not very liberal in their gifts to the Church. In this they follow the example of their Dutch masters. Of course they possess but little; but of that little they should gladly do their utmost to give, and so they are being taught.