

V.—GENERAL MISSIONARY INTELLIGENCE.

Foreign Mission Notes, by Rev. James Johnston, Bolton, England.

African Missions.—There are reported to be over 500 missionary stations in the Dark Continent, with which 400,000 converts are associated, whose number is increasing at a yearly average of 25,000 souls.

Slavery.—A meeting held at the Stanley and African Exhibition in London was addressed by several returned missionaries, of different societies. Their reports were very encouraging, especially as to the Congo region. Lord Knutsford urged more exertion for the suppression of the horrible slave traffic. Although the British are less directly active in combatting it they seem determined to banish the great curse of Africa. So far as Protestant societies are concerned they are free from the disgrace of buying boys and girls to train them as Christians, whereas, French Catholic societies openly countenance this unwise policy. A representative of the Anti-Slavery Society entreated English people to eschew the use of ivory, every scrap of which, according to Mr. Stanley, is steeped in blood. The venerable Archdeacon Maple, of the Universities' Mission, described his work on Lake Nyassa. He paid a warm tribute to the African Lakes Company for resistance to the introduction of liquor and to similar evils. The work of Dr. Laws, of the Free Church and of the Scotch Established Church, on the Shire Highlands, was equally eulogized. The Archdeacon said, in face of the partitioning of Africa by European powers, their duty as pioneers was to maintain their ground unless superior force compelled them to retire. Dr. Guinness referred to the scope of the Congo Mission, founded in 1878, by Mr. Henry Craven and others, which had at the present time three missions and seventy-five missionaries. Nowhere in the world is mission work more hopeful. The people were ac-

cessible, remarkably intelligent, and considered by the missionaries to be more Christian, on the whole, than the ordinary run of Christians in England. By the Rev. W. E. Taylor, (C. M. S., Frere Town,) it was observed that the present is the time to win the population to Christianity, otherwise they would be made converts to Mohammedanism. The Rev. R. P. Ashe (late missionary of the C. M. S. at Uganda) said that the friends of missions do not realize that the missionaries in Central Africa have, with less assistance, difficulties to face, corresponding to those which Mr. Stanley narrated in "Darkest Africa." A collection was taken for the purchase of a steamer to be launched on the waters of Victoria Nyanza for the use of the Church Missionary Society's agents. The total outlay will be £5,000, of which £2,300 has been secured. In aid of this desirable object Mr. Stanley made an eloquent appeal in the columns of *The London Times*, to British Christians.

Bishop Smythies.—The brave leader of the Universities' Mission, departing once more to his field, preached a farewell sermon to a congregation of supporters in St. John's, Red Lion Square, Holborn, from the missionary passage in Col. iv:3, "Withal, praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also bound." He returns, accompanied by three clergymen and two lady nurses, making a complete mission staff of seventy persons. During his sojourn in Europe the Bishop visited Berlin, and was cordially welcomed by the young Emperor of Germany, who spoke with marked sympathy and appreciation of the Universities' Mission.

Cardinal Lavigerie.—After discussing in Rome further plans bearing on the anti-slavery question, the