

DURING a recent visit to Butterworth, in Fingoland, the Bishop of St. John's was informed by the Rev. S. Bangela, the native priest, that he had "a good many candidates assembled for Confirmation." The Bishop had not been prepared for this, and was astonished to find nearly 300 people waiting for the rite. As the church would not have accommodated the candidates and their friends, the Confirmation Service was held outside the building, and the proceedings were very orderly. A great work lies before the Church in Fingoland.

UNDER the title of the Phil-African League, the well-known African linguist Heli Chatelain, who was temporarily connected with Bishop Taylor's West African mission, has founded an American society for the purpose of acquiring land on the healthy plateau between Benguela and Lake Nyassa. Here it is proposed to erect model Christian villages, from which drink, slavery, and other social evils are to be excluded. The settlements are, further, to assume an industrial and agricultural character, and will serve as refuges for fugitive slaves.

It is becoming very plain that a rapid change is passing over China, and one all the more significant from the fact that the emperor and his household share it. During the past winter the emperor procured for his own information about a hundred Christian books, largely the publications of the Society for the Diffusion of Christian and General Knowledge. The empress dowager, also, recently announced that, by request of foreign women residing in the empire, she would make arrangements to give audience to a large number of them in the royal palace.

THE Rev. Dr. E. A. Lawrence, writing of the meaning of Christian missions, said: "God's great agent for the spread of His Kingdom is the Church. Missions are the reproductive faculty of the parent Church, the constituting agency of the infant Church. Every Church should work out into a mission; every mission should work out into a Church. The primary aim of missions is to preach the Gospel in all lands; the ultimate aim is to plant the Church in all lands. Then the Church of each land thus planted must win its own people to Christ. The converts must convert. The new Church must evangelize and Christianize."

DURING the last sixty years England has raised up a wonderful sphere of influence in all parts of China, and in Japan, and in Corea, by means of her magistrates, and consuls, and missionaries. The justice and uprightness of those persons has been a wonderful object-lesson

to the heathen amongst whom they have lived. If Englishmen generally knew the Far East as I do and had seen the power which England has there, not by reason of her magnificent navy or her enterprising merchants, but by reason of her civilization and her Christianity, they would understand the Eastern Question a great deal better. — *Bishop Corfe, of Corea.*

VACANCIES for clergymen exist in many Dioceses abroad—and some of those missionaries to the heathen are of a painfully pressing character. Not a few clergymen have offered themselves in recent years for work among English-speaking people in the Colonies; but there seems to be hesitation in meeting the call for missionaries to the heathen. Borneo and India are in such need that it is not too much to say that many enquirers are turned away, while missionaries are hazarding their lives by remaining at their posts, preferring to run the risk of over-straining their health to leaving their Missions to be ruined. — *Mission Field.*

THE English Church Missionary Intelligencer says: "For the fifth time during his Episcopate of twenty-one years, the Bishop of Calcutta recently visited the Nadiya Zillah and held confirmations. The numbers confirmed at the different centres were as follows: Krishnagar, twenty-one; Chupa, forty-nine; Ranabandha, fifty-eight; Bollobhpur, from four parishes, 181; and Kapasdanga, fifty-one; in all, 361. The Bishop was very pleased with the continued improvement in the cleanliness and neatness of the churches and the reverent behavior of the people. He also showed his practical sympathy by giving 500 rupees toward the expenses of repairing the churches injured by the earthquake."

IN his "Impressions of South Africa," Mr. James Bryce says that nowhere has the Gospel made such progress among the Kafirs as in Basutoland. "The missionaries—French Protestant, Roman Catholic, and English Episcopalian—working not only independently but on very different lines, have brought nearly fifty thousand natives under Christian influences. Education is spreading. There are now one hundred and fifty schools in the country, all but two of which are conducted by the missionaries. . . . The extinction of heathenism in South Africa may be deemed certain, and certain at no distant date. . . . So much may certainly be said: that the Gospel and the Mission schools are at present the most truly civilizing influences which work upon the natives, and that upon these influences more than on any other agency, does the progress of the colored race depend."