

send three, or probably five, by the same missionary expedition.

**A Congo Missionary Heroine.**—Friends of the Congo Missions will regret to hear that Mrs. Percy Comber, who only went out in May last year, and was married to Mr. Comber in the August following, has fallen a victim to the malarious climate. Great sympathy is expressed for her suddenly bereaved husband. The name of Comber will be always honorably associated with African missions and African exploration. Their martyr roll on African soil includes the names of Dr. Sidney Comber, Thomas Comber; Mrs. Hay, her sister, Mrs. Thomas J. Comber, and now, Mrs. Percy Comber. By these, truly heroic breath has been offered for Africa's perishing millions on the Congo watershed.

**The Niger Troubles.**—A long document has been issued by the Committee of the Church Missionary Society, appointed to inquire into the charges made by the English secretary on the west coast of Africa against the native missionaries. Briefly summarized, the report practically acquits of guiltiness the principal native clergy whom the Rev. F. N. Eden took upon himself to suspend, yet in two instances his decision is confirmed. An English Church dignitary will possibly embark for the Niger on a mission of reconciliation. To the credit of the society, it should be known that, promptly and exhaustively, it invariably deals with the difficulties which arise on its fields of labor.

**Tunis.**—Of this French Protectorate in North Africa, with a population of 2,000,000 souls, the great majority of whom are Mohammedans, a book of considerable interest has just been published, entitled "La Politique Française en Tunisie," whose author hides his identity under the signature of P. H. X. He speaks of the administrative difficulties of the French resident as being very trying. The Tunisians like their picturesque, old-world ways, and are not to be meddled with. Their idea is that the streets belong to every one, and

that they have a right to cook or sell in them, and turn them into shambles, or set up open-air theatres on the sideways. They cannot endure the institution of a pound. Dogs, donkeys, and troops of goats from time immemorial wandered where they pleased. Who was the worse for their liberty? The dogs never went mad; they were the auxiliaries of the hyæna in devouring corpses scarcely covered with earth. Why trouble about the registration of births, deaths, and marriages? Tunis, nevertheless, is making steady headway in the path of progress.

In this unevangelized region seven missionaries of the *North Africa Mission* are laboring. The darkness of the land is appalling. Tunis is spiritually dead. Alcohol is the chief foe of the mission workers. Mohammedan insobriety is notorious. A missionary writes of the Regency: "The longer I live in Tunis, the more I see and hear of its awful wickedness, and the burden of souls is very real to us." It is pleasant to learn that the Roman Catholic Italians in Tunis are moved with the simplicity of the Gospel.

#### **Uzbek Turki Gospel Translations.**

—Thanks to the enterprise of the British and Foreign Bible Society, a part of one of the most important biblical translations undertaken of late years, consisting of the four Gospels, is now passing through the press. It is estimated that Uzbek is the language of nearly 2,250,000 people scattered over Russia in Asia, Bokhara, Afghanistan, Khokhano, and Khiva, and is spoken by almost all the agricultural population of these territories. The language is hard to acquire, as it is spoken in an exceedingly rapid, shrill utterance. The translation, reported to be quite worthy of the society's repute for scholarly accuracy, was commenced in 1884, by M. Ostroumoff, a learned Russian gentleman who had lived many years in Central Asia. His rendering has been most carefully revised and, where advisable, amended by Dr. Radloff, Professor Salemann, Dr. Sauerwein, and M. Amischasintz.