

the statesman of Friedrichsruh sends for the traveler, the botanist, the liquor dealer, and the general merchant, and takes counsel with them as to the unoccupied tracts in Africa and Oceania, on which violent hands can be laid; the more unprotected the less trouble to annex. Unhappy Eastern Equatorial Africa presented an opening. A company is formed, armed at all points, for it has its Protestant and Roman Catholic Mission Department in connection with it. Fictitious treaties are formed with imaginary chiefs, and the German cartographers hasten to recolor their political maps with so-called colonies. Men are sent out to administer, utterly ignorant of the elementary principles of rule. The Mohammedan chief of Zanzibar and his adherents are insulted; it is openly asserted that plantations are to be established, as all proprietary rights belong to the state; that the natives are to be made to work as the condition of existence; and that it is the duty of the missionaries to substitute industrial training for religious instruction and teach the natives how to work. The Hamburg liquor exporters have a new field of profitable commerce thrown open to them.

Last autumn the whole thing blew up; every German is driven out of the country; many are killed, and the work of reconstruction "with blood and iron" has to be recommenced. The British Government has been induced to join in a blockade, ostensibly against the slave dealers, with the Germans, who have never as yet shown any anti-slave-trade interests; the blockade may not do much to restore the German power, but it may do much to injure the British missions, and this is the real and only point of interest to us.

Wherever the missions are planted they have gained the affections of the people, and their very existence depends upon this fact. A capricious chief may give occasional trouble, but he is soon appeased; a covetous chief may demand excessive presents, but, if the missionary has little to offer, he cannot be plundered to any extent. There is the great fact—that the missions were there and were doing well until the German trouble arose. The great object must be to convince the natives that, with the exception of being white men, there is no connection between the British missionary and the German trader and annexationist; that the aim of the two parties is totally different. Whatever may be the object and method of the Germans, it should be impressed on the people that the British missionaries seek not the lands or the products or the wealth of the people; they desire to exercise no authority over them. They will not raise their hands against any one of them, and they are prepared to die rather than fight. It is a shocking thing that it should have come to this, but the only chance of maintaining the missionary position is by asserting this and practicing it. If the rule of "blood and iron" be introduced by the Germans, it will go hard with the British missionaries, unless they take up an entirely separate position from the invaders of a peaceful country with no shadow of right.

The British missions on Victoria Nyanza will suffer from want of supplies of men and means; the mission on Lake Tanganyika will be in great peril on both sides, from the Kongo on the west as well as from the east. The missions on Lake Nyassa may possibly hold their own, if the passage of the Zambezi is kept open. On the Universities' mission in U-Sambāra, north of Zanzibar, and on the Rovuma to the south, the storm will burst with greatest violence.

These excellent missions have been conducted on the soundest principles—for the good of the people, spiritual first, and material as a consequence; they have the credit of being popular, and now will come the proof. All