

is worth three foreigners, and they count the work of "one woman worth that of twelve men, since they can go anywhere, even among the fiercest tribes. Their motives are never questioned, and they are invariably listened to with the greatest respect." Altogether, the outlook for mission work on the Congo is hopeful, but there is one dark cloud: the Jesuits, backed by the Government of the Free State, are coming in like a flood from the west, and the Mohammedans are coming in in almost equal numbers from the east. Let either of these forces gain control and the evangelization of Central Africa will be indefinitely postponed.

THE MISSIONARY COMMITTEE OF FINANCE.

AT a meeting of the Missionary Committee of Consultation and Finance, held on the 17th inst., a good deal of business was transacted. The most important feature, however, was the action of the committee respecting the proposed new mission to China. It will be remembered that at the last General Conference this subject was under discussion, and was commended to the favorable consideration of the General Board of Missions. At the meeting of the Board, held immediately on the adjournment of the General Conference, a resolution in favor of the establishment of a new foreign mission was unanimously and cordially adopted, and the Committee of Finance was authorized to take the necessary steps in regard to the location of the new mission field, and the selection of suitable missionaries. For some years past a series of providences have turned the thoughts of the Board to China. At the meeting of the Finance Committee above referred to, the whole question was carefully considered, and much valuable information was obtained from the Rev. V. C. Hart, D.D., who had been for many years superintendent of the missions of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Central China. After a full conversation, the following preamble and resolutions were unanimously adopted:—

Moved by Rev. Dr. Sanderson, seconded by Hon. J. C. Aikins,—“Whereas, by action of the General Conference and the General Board of Missions, it has been decided to open a mission in China; and whereas, four eminently suitable volunteers are now available, two as medical missionaries and two as evangelists, one of whom spent many years as a missionary in Central China; and whereas, all the circumstances which led to the inception of the mission indicate in a marked degree the guiding hand of God;

“Therefore resolved, that in humble dependence upon the Divine Head of the Church, and with confidence in the sympathy and co-operation of our people, we proceed to give effect to the recommendation

of the General Conference, and the resolution of the General Board, by establishing a mission in West China under the following general regulations:—

“1. That the Province of Tz-Chuen be selected, with the City of Chen-too as the centre of operations.

“2. That the work shall be both evangelistic and medical.

“3. That four missionaries be sent at the present time, namely, two evangelists and two medical men.

“4. That O. L. Kilborn, B.A., M.D., and David Stevenson, M.D., be accepted as medical missionaries under the direction of the General Board, and George E. Hartwell, B.D., for the evangelistic work.

“5. That this committee learn with satisfaction that the Rev. V. C. Hart, D.D., for over twenty years in charge of the Methodist Episcopal missions in Central China, having retired on account of ill-health, and being now completely restored, is at liberty to undertake work in China, and has freely offered his services in connection with the establishment of the proposed new mission.

“Resolved,—That Dr. Hart be accepted by this committee for the work aforesaid, provided all details as to Conference relations, etc., can be satisfactorily arranged.

“6. That in the event of satisfactory arrangements being made, it is the sense of this committee that Dr. Hart, in view of his long experience in Chinese work, should be placed in charge of the mission.”

Reports from various parts of the connexion indicate that this new mission of the Church is regarded with deep interest. A number of special donations in aid of the movement have been already received, and it is hoped that enough may be given in this way to enable the committee to meet all preliminary expenses of sending out the missionaries and starting them in their work without touching the current income of the Society.

From the foregoing resolutions it will be seen that the medical feature is prominent in the new mission. There seems to be, indeed, a consensus of opinion in the various missionary societies that this element can be used to the best advantage in a country like China. It will be interesting to all friends of the new movement to learn that in case of Dr. Hart's appointment it is highly probable that sufficient funds will be forthcoming from a friend of the Doctor's to erect a hospital, and thus enable our missionaries to begin medical work almost at once. The whole matter is earnestly commended to the prayer and liberality of the Church.

Ten years ago the natives of the Upper Congo had never seen a steamboat; but to-day a fleet of twenty steamers is plying on the upper river.