

World of Missions.

For Dominion Presbyterian.

Protestant Missions in Africa.

BY JAMES CROILL.

It is difficult to realize the vastness of the Dark Continent. It is 5,000 miles from north to south and 4,800 miles in greatest breadth. It has 16,000 miles of sea coast and an area of 11,500,000 square miles. It is nearly eight times the size of India. The Nile is 3,500 miles long, the Niger, 3,000, the Congo, 2,900. Lake Victoria Nyanza is almost as large as Lake Superior; Lakes Nyassa and Tanganyika are each much larger than Lake Ontario. The Sahara Desert is 1,600 miles long and 900 miles wide. The population of Africa is usually estimated to be about 200,000,000, but it is probably a great deal more.

The northern coasts, long since passed from the aborigines, are now peopled by Arabs, Turks, Italians, French and Moors. The African races present a remarkable variety of the human species. The handsome olive-colored Berberene in the Nile district; the intelligent Moor of magnificent physique in the Northwest. The vast belt of country south of the Sahara—including Sengambia, the Soudan, and Lower Abyssinia, is the home of the genuine negro, with his woolly head, flat nose, long receding forehead, prominent cheek bones, thick protruding lips capacious mouth. South of these, on the Guinea coasts are to be found the fighting women of Dahomey, and the stalwart Ashavtee, notorious for the shedding of human blood.

In the southern provinces the graceful and kindly Kafir, the dull docile Hottentot, and the crafty Boer. On the East Coast, the quick-witted Zulu and treacherous Abyssinian. In the interior there are many noble tribes, such as Makolola, and many other reverse of noble—blood thirsty Camilals. Besides these are also some of the very lowest samples of humankind in the diminutive Bushmen, scarcely as yet, a single remove above the gorilla in intelligence. I say, as yet, for the time may come when even the degraded Bushman will learn to say—understanding what he says—"Our Father which art in Heaven." It was Victor Hugo, I think, who said,—"The nineteenth century made a man of the negro; in the twentieth, Europe will have made a world of Africa! A greater than Victor Hugo has said "God that made the world, has made of one blood all nations of men far to dwell on all the face of the earth."

Until very recently, little was known of the interior of this great country, save that it was land of pestilential fever, and that it abounded in gold, ivory and apes. It was reserved for the nineteenth century to discover that the benighted Kafir and Hottentot had souls capable of receiving Christianity and being benefited by it. Sad to say, in some quarters that discovery has not yet been made, and natives are spoken of as "black cattle," and treated accordingly by "white trash"! Africa is to-day one of the most interesting, and not the least hopeful of the mission fields of the world. At the present time there are 25 great missionary societies represented in Africa—ten Americans, twelve British, thirteen Continental; these have together about 700 European missionaries, 230 native ordained ministers, 100,000 communicants, 250,000 pupils in schools, and a million of others more or less under the influence of Christianity.

In the Northern provinces, Tunis, Tripoli, Algiers and Morocco, the great body of the people are Mohammedans. Not a vestige of the early Christianity that once flourished among them remains. In these provinces there are as many as one hundred Protestant missionaries. French, German, Swiss and British—laboring faithfully and hopefully, if with but small proofs of success. The only field mission to the Aborigines of Egypt is that of the United Presbyterian Church of the United States of America, which employs a staff of 23 American missionaries, 30 native ordained ministers, 17 licentiates and 370 other workers. They report 6128 communicants and 182 schools and colleges. The people among whom they labor, resemble in appearance and in their manner of living their remote ancestry who built the pyramids!

The church of Scotland has vigorous missions to the Jews at Alexandria. The Church Missionary Society is similarly engaged in Cairo. Both are chiefly occupied in educational work.

The Republic of Liberia on the west coast, was colonized by Freed men from America many years ago. It has a large population. American Presbyterian, Episcopalian, Methodist and Baptist missionaries are all in evidence there; likewise the Salvation Army, which reminds me of an amusing incident I witnessed in Exter Hall, London, a few years ago. The annual meeting of the Salvation Army was being held. General Booth, in the course of his remarks referred to Liberia, stating that one of their trophies from that field was on the platform. Sure enough there sat on his right hand a little old lady of the Soudanese type of beauty, neatly dressed in black, with a poke bonnet trimmed with crimson flowers. She had come to London of set purpose to see Queen Victoria, and had received a gracious reception from Her Majesty. She had called on the Lord Mayor, who took her out for a drive in his coach-and-four, and now she was the centre of attraction in a gathering of 5000 people. She could not speak a word of English, but when pointed reference was made to her, she quickly took in the situation and gave vent to her joy and gratitude by rising from her chair and dancing with all her might on the platform. Had Aunt Martha been able to voice her feelings just then it might have been in words like these:—

"I have found a precious Saviour.

He has washed my sins away;

Now, rejoicing in his favour,

I am happy all the day.

Passing the Gold Coast, the Ivory Coast and the Slave Coast, we come to the mouth of the Niger, and following its northerly course for hundreds of miles we find flourishing missions of the C.M.S.—long under the care of the eminent native Bishop Crowther of romantic history—the first black Bishop since the decadence of the primitive Christian Church in Africa. The first missionaries sent out by this Society were to Sierra Leone in 1801. It is now largely represented in South Africa. Bishop Hamington, who fell a martyr in Uganda in 1885, and the late Alexander Mackay of missionary fame, were both sent out by the Church Missionary Society. The S.P.G. Society has also been an important factor in the evangelization of Africa. From at first sending out Chaplains to the Cape in 1820, it has gradually extended its influence and is now fully represented in Stellenbosch, Capetown, Grahamstown, Lululand, Maritzburgh, Pretoria, St. Helen's and other important centres combining mission work among the native tribes with ministerial work for the colonists. There are no less than fourteen Bishops of the Anglican Church in South Africa.

The United Presbyterian Church of Scotland has long had a successful mission at Old Calabar. Farther south, the Baptist M. Society has taken possession of the Congo and its tributaries with a fleet of small steamers and a noble band of missionaries. The climate there, and indeed along the whole of the West Coast, is very trying for Europeans. It has only too truthfully been styled "The Missionary's Grave." Six members of the Comber family, one after another, in quick succession, laid down their lives for Africa and were buried beneath the palms on the banks of the Congo.

Scottish Presbyterians are to be found in the Cape Colony, in Rhodesia and in the lake countries. The German Societies and also British and American Methodists are active in Namangaland the field of Bishop Taylor's self-supporting mission. The Berlin M. Society is specially influential in the Transvaal and Orange Free State, and the Paris M. Society in the Zambezi districts.

The first Protestant missionary in Africa was George Schmidt, a humble artisan, sent here by the some 20 miles north of Capetown, in 1687. He labored faithfully for nine years, and had gained 47 converts when he was expelled from the country by the Dutch government. Fifty years later, the mission was revived by three other artisans from the same quarter, and in lapse of time Genadenthal became a centre of light in the Dark Continent.

(To be continued)

With God in the Dark.

Groping in the darkness when one is not sure as to the way, is neither pleasant nor safe. Walking in the light with right and reason to guide, is not always sure: one may even then err or fail. But to walk by faith, instead of by sight, is to be surely in the right path for one who sees and trusts Him who is invisible. Therefore it is that the glad soul sings:

"I would rather walk in the dark with God
Than go alone in the light."

PALE AND LAUGUID

THE CONDITION OF VERY MANY YOUNG GIRLS IN CANADA.

They are Subject to Headaches, Heart Trouble, and an Indisposition to Exertion—Parents Should Act Promptly in Such Cases.

Miss Alma Gauthier, daughter of Mr. Adeldard Gauthier, proprietor of a well known hotel at Three Rivers, Que., enjoys a wide popularity among her young friends, and they have recently had occasion to rejoice at her restoration to health after a serious illness. When a reporter called to ascertain the facts of the case Miss Gauthier was out of the city on a visit, but her father very gladly consented to give the story of her cure. He said:—"I believe that had it not been for Dr. Williams' Pink Pills my daughter Alma might now have been in her grave, and I would be ungrateful indeed if I did not at all times say a kind word in favor of the medicine that restored her to health. My daughter's health first began to give way several years ago. At first the trouble did not appear to be serious, and we thought she would soon regain her accustomed health. As time went on, however, this proved not to be the case. She grew weaker, was troubled with headaches, poor appetite, dizziness and a feeling of almost constant languor. She was treated by a good doctor, but still there was no improvement. She seemed to be gradually fading away. If she walked upstairs she would have to stop several times to rest on the way. She lost all her color and her face was as white almost as chalk. Her trouble was that which afflicts so many young women entering womanhood, and we feared it would develop into consumption. One day a friend of the family urged her to try Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, and she consented, and procured a couple of boxes. Before they were quite gone there was a slight improvement in her appetite and we looked upon this as a hopeful sign. Another half dozen boxes were procured and under their use she day by day acquired new strength and new interest in life. She is now as healthy a girl as there is in Three Rivers, with every trace of her palor and languor gone. This is entirely due to Dr. Williams' Pink Pills and I am rejoiced to be able to say so publicly."

The case of Miss Gauthier certainly carries with it a lesson to other parents, whose daughters may be pale, languid, easily tired, or subject to headaches, or the other distressing symptoms that mark the onward progress of anemia. In cases of this kind Dr. Williams' Pink Pills will give more certain and speedily result than any other medicine. They act promptly and directly, making new, rich, red blood and strengthen the nerves and correct all the irregularities incident to this critical period.

Sold by all dealers or sent post paid at 50c a box or six boxes for \$2.50 by addressing the Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont. Do not be persuaded to take some substitute.