

Two great questions affecting the moral and religious future of Africa are of such vast import as well nigh to baffle the wisdom and faith of Christian men: The *slave trade* and the *liquor traffic*.

The former has been the topic of discussion in the great International Conference recently convened in Brussels. The problem of its suppression is not an easy one, but it may confidently be hoped that the measures agreed to by the Conference, will greatly curtail the desolations of this horrible traffic in flesh and blood.

In regard to the liquor traffic, the problem is still more difficult. In this case it is the civilized powers themselves that are the offenders. The dark tide of poison that deluges the coasts of Africa flows from so-called Christian lands. The Governments of Great Britain, France and Germany are ready to capture slave ships on the Red sea. Are they prepared to confront the liquor interests of their own realms?

In any view, the outlook of Africa is mixed with light and shade. Its problems are too great for human wisdom; too great for the Conference of the Powers. Is there any way then for the Christian Church but to look away to the hills whence cometh her help? It is the time for a concert of prayer for Africa. A greater burden was never brought to the mercy-seat.—*Missionary Review of the World.*

Japan.—The first Protestant Missionary landed in 1854; the first baptism took place in 1865; the first church was organized in 1872. Now there are 28 missionary societies at work, with a force of 443 male and female foreign missionaries, 142 native ordained missionaries, 257 native helpers, 8 colporteurs and 70 Bible women. There are 396 stations and out-stations, 92 of the churches are self-supporting, and 157 partly so, with a total membership of 25,514, whose gifts, for all purposes, in 1888 amounted to \$48,340.93. The Sunday schools number 295, with 16,634 scholars in attendance. There are 14 theological schools, with 287 students, and 9,698 have been gathered into the missionary day schools. The translation of the New Testament was not completed until 1880, and the whole Bible at the beginning of 1888. A few months later one society had distributed over 100,000