

—Whatever may be the immediate result of the struggle with the haughty Lobengula and his warlike Matabele followers, there can be no doubt that in the end great gain will inure to civilization and Christianity. Cecil Rhodes is a statesman of a high order, and he is laying the foundations of an East African empire.

—Alfred Casalis, a missionary of the Paris Society in Basutoland, reports in the *London Christian* that in his district there are 6 schools, one with 200 pupils, 9 native schoolmasters, 7 native catechists, 730 church-members, and over 300 catechumens.

ISLANDS OF THE SEA.

—A missionary of the London Society in Madagascar sends to *The Chronicle* an account of a native young man, who had been a wild lad, but who something more than two years since gave himself to Christ. He was much impressed with the Saviour's command to his disciples to *preach*, and was convinced that this command ought to be obeyed not by a few, but by all, and not on Sundays alone, but every day. Though a plain woodcarrier, as soon as his wood was sold he would go about the market, Bible in hand, preaching as long as any one would listen. Finding that his trade interfered with his giving as much time to preaching as he would like, he gave it up. One day he told the missionary that he had preached 7 times, but thought that "so little." Ordinarily he preached from 10 to 14 times. When asked to go into some of the churches and preach, he declined, saying, "I should get comparatively few to hear me, whereas in the market when I raise my voice and call out, 'Oh all ye people, God is waiting to be reconciled to you to-day!' 400 or 500 people can hear me, and stop to listen."

—One of the most notable features of the progress of the Gospel in the South Seas is found in the fact that the work

has been done so largely by the native Christians. Thus in the years 1872-91 no less than 53 couples were sent from the Raratonga mission to toil in New Guinea, and of these 4 men and 3 women were killed by the savages, and 17 men and 23 women died of fever. Last year 38 more were sent from Samoa, Niue, etc.

—Dr. Gunn, of Fotuna, in the New Hebrides, tells a distressing story of how that island has been desolated by an epidemic of dysentery. Medicines were almost useless, and one fourth of the population fell victims, including most of the children and youth. Two were taken from his home.

—After sixty years of help and oversight the English Baptist Missionary Society is about to withdraw all pecuniary assistance from the Nassau and Bahamas churches. This district, which now assumes self-support, includes 19 islands having 94 native evangelists, who are superintended by 1 European missionary. After four years of gradually decreasing grants, San Domingo, Turk's and Carios islands are also to be thrown upon their own resources. These contain 14 stations with 2 missionaries and 40 evangelists. The same course is to be taken in the near future in Trinidad, with its 20 stations, 2 missionaries, and 13 evangelists.

It is with deep sorrow that we learn of the death of two of our editorial correspondents, whose names are familiar to all friends of missions. Rev. Dr. Steel, of Australia, died on October 9th, and Rev. Dr. Nevius, of China, on or about October 26th. A fuller notice of these two able advocates of Christ's cause will appear in our next issue.