

## SOUDAN.

The chief territory in Africa clearly defined as unoccupied is the multiform region of the Soudan, with the thinly peopled Sahara on the north, and Abyssinia on the east. This immense tract of country lies north of the Congo basin, and has a reach from the west eastward considerably exceeding the span from San Francisco to New York. The average breadth is from 500 to 250 miles. The Soudan is a land of varied races and of a multitude of tongues, but is broadly divisible into three regions—a western, an eastern, and a central. The eastern region is in a state of social solution, and for years violence has filled the whole land. Since the fall of Khartoum and the evacuation of the equatorial province, there has been no let to Arab aggression and domination, with the result that native blood has flowed like water, and the remnants of native population are terrorized and enslaved. It is as if a fair and prosperous *kosmos* had been by mighty convulsions turned to chaos. Yet had Gordon been supported, what different things we should have seen to-day! But England, in her short-sighted rulers, did not discern God's gift in that man, nor the magnificent opportunity which, in the providence of God, came with him. And now there is "no man to make up the hedge and fill the gap before the Lord"; neither is there space for repentance. Meanwhile, pandemonium is let loose, slavery is rampant, and, if there are not now native races enough to lash, the Arab hunter, grown emboldened by success, has only to go farther afield.

As, however, in the sky there is always light somewhere, either reflected by the distant stars or cast up from the buried sun, so even in regard to Eastern Soudan it is given us to see some gleam in the midst of densest obscurity. Bishop Tucker, while thinking that the door into Eastern Soudan is not to be opened from the north, is sanguine that it shall yet be set open from the south. Uganda, in his judgment, is to be the Gibraltar rock upon which the Arab's power is to be broken, the base of operations whereby slavery is to receive its death wound, and the most miserable regions on the face of the earth, social recovery and Gospel light. Be that as it may, of this we are assured, that in some way or other for Eastern Soudan, as for other unoccupied fields, the Lord will provide.—*Selected.*

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**Books and Periodicals Department.**


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*Institutes of the Christian Religion.* By Emanuel V. Gerhart, D.D., LL.D. Completed in two octavo volumes, 1,744 pp.; per vol., \$5. New York, London, and Toronto: Funk & Wagnalls Company. This is a new work on systematic theology. The author is professor of systematic and practical theology in the Theological Seminary of the Reformed Church, Lancaster, Pa. The central doctrine of the *Institutes* is the divine-human personality of Jesus Christ; the author's aim being to construct all doctrines, not from God's sovereign will, nor from the freedom of man as the point of observation, but from the vital union of both as realized in the life and work of the Mediator. The method is positive rather than controversial or polemical, and historical rather than analytic or synthetic. The first volume treats of: I. Sources of Theological Knowledge. II. The Christ Idea: Principle of Christian Doctrine. III. Theology: the Doctrine of God. IV. Cosmology: Doctrine in Creation and Providence. The second volume: I. Anthropology: Doctrine on the Adamic Race. II. Christology: Doctrine on Jesus Christ. III. Pneumatology: Doctrine on the Holy Spirit. IV. Soteriology: Doctrine on Personal Salvation. V. Eschatology: Doctrine on the Last Things. The complete work, now ready, will doubtless receive favorable consideration from a large majority of theologians.

(1) *The Expositor* (one shilling), (2) *The Clergyman's Magazine* (sixpence). London: Hodder & Stoughton, Paternoster Row. *The Expositor* has seven carefully prepared articles. Prof. Cheyne discourses upon Isaiah, and Rev. James Stalker upon Jeremiah. Dr. Fairbairn's "The Person of Christ, a Problem in the Philosophy of Religion," starting with the standpoint of Caiaphas and Pilate in their relation to Christ, puts forth many suggestive thoughts regarding the influence that religion, of whatever kind, has ever had upon the nations. Other articles are: "The Foresight of Faith," "Professor F. Blass on the Two Editions of Acts," "Of the Nature of Faith," and "Survey of Recent Biblical Literature." These are contributed respectively by Rev. John Watson, Rev. Prof. Ramsay, Rev. Canon Diggle, and Rev. Prof. Marcus Dods. In *The Clergyman's Magazine* is a sketch of Archbishop Laud, Seasonable Notes for Sermons, including a suggestive study of "Noah, His Life and Times," by the late Prebendary Gordon Calthrop; a good mission sermon on "The Lost Son"; an article on "The Origin and Authorship of the Epistle to the Hebrews," connecting it with the walk to Emmaus on the evening of the first Easter day; an article also on "The Scriptural Character of the Book of Common Prayer."

(1) *The Sunday at Home*, (2) *The Leisure Hour*, (3) *The Boys' Own Paper*, (4) *The Girls' Own Paper*, (5) *Friendly Greetings*, (6) *The Cottager and Artisan*, (7) *Light in the Home*, (8) *The Child's Companion*, (9) *Our Little Dots*. The Religious Tract Society, 56 Paternoster Row, London. *The Sunday at Home* has a very beautiful colored frontispiece of travellers in the desert, called "Pathless"; a good story of quiet suffering and heroism in a London curate, "A Brother's Keeper"; a fine description of "New Guinea Under Christian Training," and much more entertaining reading matter. In *The Leisure Hour* the "Indian Uncle" is continued; "Rambles in Japan" gives interesting scenes of that country, as does "Mysore and the Late Maharajah" of India. Other articles are of usual interest. *The Boys' Own Paper* and *The Girls' Own Paper* are up to their usual mark for the young people. "The Last Voyage of Henry Hudson" is a capital frontispiece to *The Boys' Own*, and "The Bachelor" to *The Girls' Own*. In addition to the other publications the Tract Society issue this month two good stories, well illustrated and printed, each only a penny, "The Pilots of Loughwick Head" and "Miss Limpett's Lodgers."

*The Missionary Review of the World.* Funk & Wagnalls Co., 30 Lafayette Place, New York. Price, \$2.50 a year. Among a mass of missionary literature in the February number of this magazine may be mentioned an able paper (illustrated) on "Foreign Missions and Sociology in China," by Rev. Arthur H. Smith, whose "Chinese Characteristics" has of late been so enthusiastically received for the deep insight it gives into the life and characters of the "Celestials." Rev. C. C. Starbuck also gives a condensed translation of Victor Von Strauss' description of the character and teachings of "The Chinese Philosopher Lao-tse"; Rev. Edger-

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