

VIII.—PROGRESS OF MISSIONS: MONTHLY BULLETIN.

Africa.—The Work in Abyssinia. The strong position Italy now occupies at Massaua on the Red Sea, its military strength, its alliance with King Meenelek, its rising colony at Assab—all inspire the hope that Abyssinia and the Galla country may be speedily opened up to the gospel. The past labors of the C. M. S., since 1820, in these regions are well known. Gobat, Krapf, Isenberg were among its faithful agents; these were, however, gradually driven out through religious intrigue and the violence of King Theodore. There remain, however, valuable translations, such as those in the Amharic, Tigre and Galla tongues; the last the laborious work of Dr. Krapf. There are still, also, fragments of missions among the Falashas, in the Shoa country, and there is the Swedish Mission at Massaua, etc., which General Gordon so generously supported. The Church of Rome is availing itself of the opportunity. It is said that Russia also is to establish a consulate and to send a mission. It is to be hoped that evangelical missions will not be slow to avail themselves of this open door.

—In response to a telegram from Mr. Douglas Hooper of Eastern Africa, received on a Monday in London and announced that evening in Exeter Hall, no less than nine volunteers presented themselves in thirty-six hours for work in that difficult field. Four men were selected, and by the following Saturday evening actually started on their journey *via* Marseilles. "This," says the *Indian Witness*, "is a good answer to the charge that mission interest is dying out."

—A Steamer for Victoria Nyanza. The enthusiasm in England has led to the raising of a "Stanley Fund," and Mr. Stanley himself has made the suggestion as to its disposal—that it be devoted to the placing of a steamer on Victoria Nyanza. This lake is as large as the whole of Scotland, and he states that a steamer upon it would be of immense service, both for the use of the missionaries and as a civilizing factor. He proposes that it should be handed over either to the Church Missionary Society or to the Imperial British East African Company.—*Missionary Herald*.

—The Gaza Country. *L'Afrique* reports that a Portuguese expedition has been sent to the Gaza country, the region to which, as we have recently reported, Gungunyana, the son of Umzila, has removed with all his people. This expedition is intended, by an effective occupation, to enforce the claims of Portugal as the protectorate of Gazaland. A more recent report by way of Lisbon, June 11, states that Gungunyana has joined the chief Bilene, and, with a force of 50,000 men and women, has beaten Bifoana, the leading chieftain of the Portuguese territory. Other chiefs are re-

nouncing their allegiance to Portugal and are joining Gungunyana.

—The report of the Mackenzie Memorial Mission to Zululand and the tribes towards the Zambesi river begins with mourning the loss of its head, the late Dr. D. Mackenzie, Bishop of Zululand. The mission consists (in addition to the Bishop) of 13 clergymen (two of them natives) and 22 lay helpers. The total income from free contributions received during the year was a little over £1,200.

—King Mwanga, of Uganda, Central Africa, who has been twice dethroned and driven out of the country, has returned and is again at the head of the kingdom. In a letter written to Cardinal Lavigerie he asks that priests be sent to teach the religion of Christ in all the country of Uganda.

—The reports of the suffering from famine in the Soudan are appalling. The greatest sufferers are the widows and children of the men who have been killed during the many conflicts which have raged in the interior. Reports from Suakin are that not only all sorts of animals are eaten, but that cannibalism has actually commenced. An appeal has been made in England for these starving Soudanese.

—The number of missionary stations in Africa now exceeds 500. There are 400,000 converts and the number is increasing at the rate of about 25,000 a year. Within five years more than 200 natives have suffered martyrdom for their faith.

—Rev. A. R. Tucker was consecrated Bishop for Eastern Equatorial Africa on April 21, and left for Africa the same day. He has charge of the missions of the English Church Missionary Society in East Africa. A telegram to the *London Times* says that his party are to start for the Nyanza the first week in July with Mr. Stokes' caravan.

China.—A Revival.—A great and mighty door has been opened lately for the gospel in the Shantung Province, China. A revival wave is passing over that section of the country. The Rev. Robert M. Mateer, one of the laborers in that province, has been so distressed by the great hunger of the people for the gospel and the small number to feed them that he has taken upon himself the support of ten native preachers (\$50 a year each), three girls' schools (\$175 each), and one boys' school (\$300). He wrote to the pastor of Tabor Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia, Rev. Willis B. Skillman, stating the above facts and asking for a helping hand. The pastor laid the matter before his Bible-class, composed of 35 young men, and the class made the hearty response of \$50, which means the support of a native pastor for a year. The same matter was brought to the attention of