

## GENERAL READING DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED BY STANLEY.

Stanley's narrative gives us a vivid idea of travel in Africa under its best conditions; that is to say, through a country fairly known, which has been visited by white men, and is now traversed by frequent caravans. Sometimes they crossed "broad and bleak plains, where food was scarce and cloth vanished fast," and sometimes they came to hilly countries where the people were civil and hospitable. Sometimes they were in troublesome districts, where there were warring tribes, where the people were treacherous or hostile, and then Stanley could only sleep with his hand on his rifle. There were furious tempests, "and some days Nature and man alike warred against us, while on others both seemed combined to bless us." Other troubles came to this intrepid commander and his small army, more especially that potent and untiring enemy of all African travel—Typhus. This was the enemy who menaced Stanley at Zanzibar, and never left his footsteps until he embarked at Loanda; who followed him night and day, doing his awful will upon the expedition. And so from these misfortunes—from famine and fatigue, from fever and massacre, from mutiny and death—the little army dwindled away, and it is a wonder that it did not return, or at least content itself with visiting Livingstone's country and exploring Victoria Nyanza and return with the report which has been brought for so many centuries—that Africa continued hostile to those who came to woo her, and would not be won. Nor does it surprise us that, amid all these discouragements, the heart of Stanley should have faltered. "The expedition seemed doomed. Promises of reward, kindness, threats, punishments, had no effect." But at the same time the spirit of the leader was felt in the command. "The white men," he says, "although elected out of the ordinary class of Englishmen, did their work heroically. Though suffering from fever and dysentery, insulted by natives, marching under the heat of equatorial rainstorms, they at all times proved themselves of noble, manly natures, stout-hearted, brave, and better than all, true Christians." These are the men by whom empires are made, but for them there was no empire but the memory of duty well done; no trophy, no reward, unless what is to come as the reward for well doing in the final day of account. Two of them were to sleep near the banks of Victoria Nyanza, victims of disease; the other was to be whirled into eternity over the rapids of the Congo, when his journey was almost at an end.

Sometimes Stanley was in the wilderness without guides. This, however, seemed a happiness compared to his position when he did have guides who betrayed him, as happened early in his expedition in Ukimbu, near the elephant country. In Ukimbu the guides ran away, and Stanley found himself on the edge of a wilderness with but ten days provisions. He had trusted his guides, and purchased a quantity of food. He endeavored to pierce the wilderness, but his track was lost in a maze of elephant and rhinoceros trails. He could only depend upon his compass. The second day found a jungle of acacia and euphorbia, through which the men had to crawl and scramble along the ground, "under natural tunnels of embracing shrubbery, cutting the convoluted and creepers, thrusting aside stout thorny bushes, and by various detours taking advantage of every slight opening the jungle afforded." There was no water. Overcome with hunger and thirst, the command began to straggle and faint. Some managed to reach the camp, where medicine and restoratives brought them strength. Five never returned. One of them was dead in the woods, and of the other four it is believed "they wandered on until they fell down and died." On the fifth day they came to a village, but the village comprised only four negroes, their wives and little ones, and had no food for such a large command. Stanley learned that there was another village twenty-nine miles away, named Suna, and he sent a picked band of twenty, the strongest and most enduring to visit Suna and bring food. He scoured the woods for game, but there was no game. A lion's den was found. In this den were two young lions, which were killed and skinned. But of what avail were two lion cubs to an expedition of starved men? Surely here was death at last—death, defeat, annihilation; and this proud expedition which had set out so gloriously from Zanzibar, resolved to force the mystery of a continent and fight its way to the Atlantic, why, all that could happen to it was to perish in an African jungle of lions and elephants, to perish as so many had done before, leaving only the name of Stanley to be added to the sad, dismal roll of martyrs to African discovery. "Returning to camp," says Stanley, "from the fruitless hunt"—"nothing in all that wilderness but the two lion cubs—"I was so struck with the pinched faces of my poor people

that I could have almost wept, if I might have done so without exciting fear of our fate in their minds. I resolved to do something toward relieving the pressing needs of fierce hunger." Stanley had medical stores, which in such an expedition are a sacred trust. He opened a sheet iron trunk and made it serve as a pot. Into this pot he doled out five pounds of Scotch oatmeal—perhaps the most precious of all his possessions—and their tins of "revalenta arabica," and made a gruel. "It was a rare sight," he says, "to see those poor famine-stricken people hasten to that Torquay dress trunk and assist me to cook the huge pot of gruel; to watch them fan the fire to a fiercer heat, and, with their gourds full of water, stand by to cool the foaming liquid when it threatened to overflow. The porridge kept the expedition alive forty-eight hours, when Stanley heard the musketry of his returning embassy coming in from Suna with food. "The grain was most greedily seized by the hungry people, and so animating was the report of the purveyors that the soldiers one and all clamored to be led away that afternoon." And so our leader marched on.—JOHN RUSSELL YOUNG in *Harpers Magazine* for October.

### PRINCE BISMARCK.

He is a powerful man. That is what strikes at once every one who sees him for the first time. He is very tall and of enormous weight, but not ungainly. Every part of his gigantic frame is well proportioned—the large, round head, the massive neck, the broad shoulders, and the vigorous limbs. He is now more than sixty-three, and the burden he has had to bear has been unusually heavy; but though his step has become slow and ponderous, he carries his head high—looking down, even, on those who are as tall as himself—and his figure is still erect. During these latter years he has suffered frequent and severe bodily pain, but no one could look upon him as an old man, or as one to be pitied. On the contrary, everybody who sees him feels that Prince Bismarck is still in possession of immense physical power. Photography has made his features known to all. It is a strange face, which would attract attention anywhere, even if we did not know that it belonged to a man whose doings have changed our modern world. It is a face never to be forgotten—by no means handsome, but still less an ugly one. It was remarkably bright, full of humor, of merry mischief, even, in days long gone by. It has now become serious—almost solemn—with an expression of unfinching energy and daring. The bald, round forehead—an object of admiration for the physiologist—is of quite extraordinary dimensions; the large, prominent blue eyes seem as if they could look into the sun without blinking. They are not quick, they wander from one object to another; but when they rest on a human countenance they become so intensely inquiring, that many people, when they have to undergo this searching look, feel uneasy;—and all, even Bismarck's equals or superiors, are made aware that they are in the presence of a man with whom it would be wise to play fair, as he would probably discover the subtlest tricks. His thick, well set eyebrows are singularly long and shaggy, and they add not a little to the stern, and, at times, somewhat fierce expression of his countenance. The nose is of ordinary size—not as long, perhaps, as might be expected from the rest of the face; the chin is large and massive.—*Blackwood*.

### WHAT STANLEY DID FOR GEOGRAPHY.

Stanley gave nine months to the exploration of the Luabala, or rather to the Livingstone, as he called it, and as it must be called for all time. Before he went out on this mission we knew there were two rivers—the Congo and the Luabala. We knew that the Congo ran into the Atlantic Ocean, but its source was lost in cataracts. The Portuguese were content to scatter a few settlements about his mouth, and trade for gums and ivory along its banks. But it is an unknown river beyond the cataracts. We knew there was a river in the middle of Africa called the Luabala; we knew it had a swift current, that it was a river of large volume. But beyond that we knew nothing. Some had one theory, others had another. Livingstone was convinced that it ran into the Nile, was really the source of the Nile; and who would question even the theory of so great a master? What Stanley did was to show that the Congo and the Luabala were one and the same; that the Congo, instead of losing itself among the rapids, was to force itself into the very heart of the continent; that the Luabala, instead of going north and submitting to the usurping waters of the Nile, was to turn to the west and force its way to the sea; that these two rivers were to disappear from the map, and be known as one river—the Livingstone; that this river was to be 2900

miles in length; that for ten degrees of longitude it was to be continuously navigable; that its volume was 1,800,000 cubic feet a second; that the entire area it drains is 800,000 square miles—in other words, that here was an immense waterway 3000 miles into the centre of Africa, navigable with the exception of two breaks, which engineering science can easily surmount—a waterway into a tropical empire, rich in woods and metals and gracious soil, in fruits and grains, the sure home of a civilized empire in the years to come. As Petermann, the eminent German geographer, puts it, Stanley's work was to unite the fragments of African exploration—the achievements of Livingstone, Burton, Speke, Du Chaillu, Baker, Cameron, of all the heroic men who had gone before him—into one consecutive whole, just as Bismarck united the fragments of the German people, lying about under various princes and dukes, into one grand and harmonious empire. Even as Bismarck had created imperial Germany, so Stanley created geographical Africa.—JOHN RUSSELL YOUNG, in *Harpers Magazine* for October.

### STANLEY'S WARS.

Of Stanley's wars much has been written. Various Englishmen, from Lord Derby down, have expressed an opinion upon these conflicts, and the discussion bids fair to become a permanent chapter in African literature. The American observer will notice that at the time Stanley was adding fame to the names of the British Princess Beatie and the future British Queen Alexandra by giving these names to two important discoveries in Africa, Lord Derby was issuing orders to the British consuls to prevent his carrying the British flag. This reminds us of Columbus returning home in chains a prisoner to the king to whose empire he had added continental dominion. It was rumored that Stanley was to be arrested when he came to the coast, if he ever did come; and the *New York Herald*, as his employer and champion, went so far as to advance his American citizenship as a reason why he should not be arrested without at least a protest from the American government. But as it happened that Stanley did return to British soil an honored guest on a British man of war and not a prisoner, and as the first to welcome him was the Prince of Wales, we may be justified in assuming that Lord Derby's action was an impulse based upon incorrect information, and never a serious purpose of the government. Of course if Stanley could have crossed the African continent without harming any one, his taking of life would have been massacre. The history of African exploration, like that of exploration in our own Indian territories, is unhappily the history of continued war. In our country white men were slain to satisfy a savage's craving for blood. In many parts of Africa men are slain for food. Stanley a good part of his time was moving among people who would have killed him and his whole command, as our Indians kill the buffalo, namely, to eat them. "I don't choose," said Livingstone, "to be made meat for black men." This was one of the reasons why that gentle soul refused to go into the Congo country that Stanley fought most of his battles. We think the law of self-defense can be put on no higher ground than the dislike to be killed and eaten by your enemy. In other regions Stanley fought to save himself from being killed and his army robbed. His expedition was a tempting one to the black men. He carried his army chest with him in the shape of beads and cloths and wire and cowries and articles of merchandise, which were as much the currency of his command as the greenbacks with which we paid our armies during the war. We take it no prudent commander would allow his army chest to be carried away without defending it, especially if he depended upon it, as Stanley did, for all his supplies. It was his army chest and contained his provisions. He could only live by buying from the people, and he could only buy with his supplies. In some cases the people were in fear of the slave-traders. Stanley may have been attacked under the impression that he was coming to carry off men and women and children into slavery. If this led to the loss of life, then we must lament it, but the blame is not upon Stanley, but upon the odious system which European civilization planted in Africa, which still flourishes, but which no one has done so much to destroy as our explorer. In all these savage countries the traveller is subject to one of these sudden, lawless gusts of passion which fell upon Captain Cook in the Pacific and deprived science and humanity of that intrepid and glorious life. The difference between Stanley and Captain Cook is that Stanley killed his assailants. If Captain Cook had been so fortunate, we question if Lord Chatham would have been so eager to deprive him of his flag, as Lord Derby was to withdraw from Stanley the flag which was the emblem of the English fraction of his expedition.—*John Russell Young* in *Harpers Magazine* for Oct.

### EDUCATION IN JAPAN.

How amazingly this Asiatic Island empire is rushing forward! The third report of the Minister of Education states that the number of elementary schools in the seven grand school divisions was 24,225, of which 21,998 were public and 2,227 were private schools, being an increase of 4,208 over the preceding year. The total number of elementary school districts was 45,778. The average area of the districts is about 250 square miles. The number of teachers was 45,501; of which 40,511 were males and 538 female teachers of public schools, and 3,176 were male, and 256 female teachers of private schools, the increase in the number of teachers being 7,631. The number of scholars was 1,928,126, of which 1,877,591 were male, and 426,437 were female, showing a total increase of 211,348. The whole population of the school districts is estimated at 34,003,087, out of which there were 5,167,667 children of school age. The children of school age who received education during the year were 1,828,474, and those who received no education were 3,389,193. Of middle schools, the total numbers were 115, of which 11 were private establishments. The total number of scholars was 5,020, and the number of teachers was 265. There are 90 Normal schools in the country, of which 8 are controlled by the Government. The number of instructors in the Normal Schools was 588, and the number of students was 8,696. On an average there were 6.5 instructors and 85.5 students to every school, and 18.09 students to every instructor. Of the colleges for special sciences, the foremost is the Tokio Kaiseigakko, in which the number of professors was 40, of whom 21 were natives. The average number of students was 324. In the Tokio Igakko (or medical college) the number of professors was 29, of whom 19 were natives, and the number of students was 445. The number of students attending all the colleges was 836, or one to every 36,388 of the whole population. The number of newly-erected school buildings were 3,881, or 16.81 per cent. of the entire number of schools.

Of course a vast amount remains to be done; but the marvel is the rapidity with which Japan is marching to the tune of progress and enlightenment. At the present rate, in twenty years hence, the people of Japan will be among the best educated in the world.

### THE GENERAL CONFERENCE.

The Rev. Mr. Dewart had specially studied this question, and was convinced that all reasonable facilities should exist for the transfer of ministers from one Conference to another. He could scarcely approve any of the amendments which had been offered, as they were mostly too complicated. He would like to see a representative elected by each Conference to attend the committee with the presidents of the Conferences. He could not sympathize with the fear that had been expressed that the committee would exercise their power tyrannically. The power would doubtless be frequently exercised in favor of individuals who desired to exchange one circuit for another. He had full faith in a wise and judicious committee, and had greater fear of the tyranny of a one-man power than of that of a committee. He had watched the movements in the Church closely during the last four years, and was convinced that the tendency, far from being towards sectionalism and the weakening of the connexional bonds, was in favor of greater union and solidarity.

The Rev. Mr. Hestis was in favor of promoting the free interchange of ministers throughout the Church. He strongly disapproved the recommendation of the Committee dividing the Committee into an eastern and western section. As far as he had observed he had not seen any general desire in the ministers to go further west.

The Rev. Mr. Sutherland here offered to change his amendment to meet the views that had been expressed, that it would not be imperative upon every President of an Annual Conference to meet unless his conference was affected by the proposed transfer.

The Rev. Dr. Burns, Principal of the Hamilton Female College, was introduced to the Conference, and was honored by the members rising. He briefly addressed the Conference.

The President read a letter from Dr. Dawson, Principal of McGill College, welcoming members of Conference to visit the halls of that institution, and inspect the collection of shells, the library and the mechanical apparatus.

The Conference acknowledged the invitation with a vote of thanks, and soon after adjourned.

The Conference met at half-past two o'clock. After prayer and the reading of the minutes, the discussion on the report of the Committee on Itinerancy was resumed.

The Rev. Mr. Richardson said he meant to vote for Mr. Sutherland's amendment. The connexional bond would be amply secured by the union of the presidents of the several conferences and the missionary secretaries. On the subject of authority and individual rights, he thought the minister should certainly be consulted when it was proposed to remove him to another circuit. For instance, if a member of the Muskoka District were transferred to the St. James St. Church of Montreal, it was likely that neither would object. If, becoming a Methodist minister, he, the speaker, did not become a Jesuit priest, nor did he agree to renounce his individualism.

The Rev. Mr. Laird thought the recommendation of the Committee was the most simple, the most economical, and the most effective. At present there were five or six transfer meetings each year, but if the presidents were brought together once a year much expense would be saved. The Union feeling was now stronger than ever before, but if that was to be continued and strengthened there should be all possible elasticity in the transfer of ministers. The numerous transfer committees were a bond of connexional union and he desired to see them continued.

The Rev. Dr. Sanderson was opposed to the division of the Committee into two sections; also to the provision allowing a man to return to his circuit at the end of six years. He saw no reason why the missionary secretaries should *ex officio* be members of the transfer committee. On the whole he liked Mr. Ferrier's amendment, but feared it would not prove satisfactory to some ministers. Too great power would be given to the committee and the President of the General Conference would be virtually elevated into the position of a bishop of the M. E. Church in the United States. The Rev. Mr. Keogh liked the simplicity and cheapness of Mr. Ferrier's method. Yet there was one fault in it, inasmuch as it did not provide that the committee should meet at stated periods, consider the whole field. The stationing power should be retained, to as great an extent as possible in the hands of this Conference. In some

Conferences there was likely to be a superabundance of men, and there should be some arrangement to equalize the supplies of ministers in the several Conferences. He preferred, however, the wide both for the rights and wishes of individuals, committees.

The Rev. Dr. Allison said Mr. Ferrier's amendment was simple enough, but it was the simplicity of it that was objectionable. He should support the secretary's amendment until something better was proposed.

The Rev. Dr. Ryckman said there were circuits that did not wish to be confined to their own Conferences for their supplies, and moreover there were brethren who wished to be transferred for many reasons. At the time the present Conference lines were drawn many ministers found themselves cut off from association with old friends and from their home, and these men would have voted down the present arrangement had they not been allowed to return to the homes from which they had been exiled. The time would do justice to these men and to transfer them. He should decidedly oppose Mr. Ferrier's amendment, because it made the Committee too small and gave them too much power. That amendment would, moreover, injure the connexional bonds instead of strengthening them, as Mr. Ferrier seemed so earnestly to desire. The proposition to divide the Committee was also objectionable, and he believed that it would be found after a little experience that the old arrangement, if now stood in the Discipline, was the best.

The ex-President, Dr. Ryerson, was the author of the arrangement, and he the speaker was surprised to hear that venerable gentlemen characterize the arrangement in his retiring address as cumbersome and inefficient. Two meetings of the Transfer Committee should be held yearly in order that those proposed to be transferred might have an opportunity to state their objections at the second meeting. At the same time he held that the ministers should be constrained to accept the decision of the Committee whether they like it or not, just as was now the case with the decisions of the Stationing Committee. At the same time these men thus transferred should be allowed to return to their original station at the end of six years.

Mr. Gray thought Mr. Ferrier's motion was the most practicable one that had yet been presented. Neither could he approve of the Committee's recommendation on account of its tendency towards sectionalism. On the whole he approved of the Secretary's amendment, and considered that the decision of the Committee should be compulsory. At the same time he thought a man transferred against his will should be allowed to return, at the end of a certain time, to where his heart was most set.

Dr. Fowler—When you entered into an agreement with the Stationing Committee, were there any geographical limits to where you would serve?

The Rev. Mr. Gray replied there were no geographical limits then, and he was willing to go now to any part of the Dominion.

The Rev. Mr. Pitcher was willing to give compulsory power to the Transfer Committee. A Methodist minister should be willing to sacrifice his own predilections for the greater good of the church. If the Transfer Committee should tell him to go to Gaspe he would not refuse, and if he were sent to Gaspe he would not refuse, wherever they were sent, regardless of their personal preferences.

Mr. Sandford said the chief difficulty was the unfortunateness of the times that existed in the minds of different members of the Conference. It had been hinted that great numbers of men desired to be transferred, and were seeking a facile committee who would transfer them. If members could see their personal interests and put the interests of the church uppermost, there would be no difficulty in coming to an arrangement. It seems as if some conferences desired to monopolize all the fat places. He meant to propose an amendment that the Presidents of the General and Annual Conferences, and the missionary secretaries, when their department was concerned, and one layman from each conference, should form the Transfer Committee.

Dr. Rice said at the time of the division of the conferences undoubtedly many men were stationed against their will, and it would be unfair to confine them to their positions by an exorable law. Still, he desired to see men ready to make some sacrifices for the church. If a Methodist minister on entering the church resolved that he would go wherever he was sent God would certainly go with him and give him success. The Transfer Committee had very important interests to look after, and every church should be supplied with the man most suitable for it. As a body they were bound to look after the centres of power, and the best men that could be placed in those centres. Would it be wise in taking Dr. Fotts for instance, and sending him up to Bruce Mines? ("Yes," "No," and laughter.) That would be an unwise expenditure of ministerial power. The most available men should be selected for particular stations. He liked Mr. Ferrier's amendment because it was the most simple. He wanted to see the rank and file of the Conference moved. He knew of a brother in the Kingston District who had been there for the last twenty-five years. Now he would like to see that brother sent somewhere else; he would like to see the Lower Province ministers replaced by others, and so in respect to other places. Let the President of the General Conference look over the whole field, from time to time, and let him call the committee together, whenever he deemed it necessary. He wanted to see the members of the whole Dominion get mixed up and sent from one end of the country to the other, so that they would never talk about connexional lines again. There seemed to be a general opinion that the western provinces were more desirable to live in than the eastern; then let the western brethren give way for a time, and exchange places with their eastern brethren. He would like to see it made compulsory for the Committee to transfer at least six men each year from one Conference to the other.

The Conference then proceeded to vote upon the question. Mr. Sutherland's amendment to the amendment being put, received 93 votes for to 88 against, and was consequently carried.

The Rev. Mr. Dewart asked whether this was not one of the subjects that must depend upon the ratification of the annual conferences before becoming law.

The President—I know of no subject that must be referred by this conference to an annual conference.

The Hon. Mr. Shannon was not quite sure on the point. If the result of the vote was to affect the power of the Stationing Committee of the Annual Conferences then this vote would require to be ratified by them.

The Rev. Mr. Graham very much regretted the vote that had been taken, but he was satisfied it would never become law until it had been carried by a two-thirds vote.

Rev. Dr. Williams—The question is as to the constitutionality of the act.

The President—As far as I can see, the constitutionality of the action just taken cannot be taken.

At this moment considerable confusion prevailed owing to the great number of members who wished to be heard on the subject, and the diversity of opinions expressed.

The President repeated that this action did not infringe upon the rights of the annual conferences inasmuch as it did not take away a solitary committee or privilege that they had had. He did not believe that it had interfered with their rights; but, if it did, there were more than two-thirds in its favor.

The Rev. Mr. Dewart said it was the right of the annual conference to send two men to represent them on the Stationing Committee, and that right had been taken away from them by this vote.

Dr. Sanderson read from the Discipline where he considered established the unconstitutionality of the action just taken. He wished to appeal from the decision of the chair.