

—**West African Missions.** The heart of the veteran Crowther would be gladdened by the embarkation in the *Lagos* (s.s.) Feb. 15, at Liverpool, of the iron church which is to replace an old wooden one at Bonny, which had become unsafe for worship. This new edifice which, like its predecessor, will be named St. Clement's, is intended mainly for the use of the English-speaking merchants and their workpeople in the Bonny River. The total cost of the building, including freight, is £430. Among the missionary heroes of the 19th century the colored Bishop of Sierra Leone and the Lower Niger will fill a shining place.

—**Bishop Smythies and Slavery at Zanzibar.** Grief, and grief only, must be felt by the admirers of chivalrous devotion in the mission fields on learning that Bishop Smythies, of the Universities' Mission, sailed from Zanzibar Feb. 26 for Aden, *en route* for Britain. The intrepid Bishop has been seized with persistent fever, and it is feared he may not be able to return for some time, if at all, to this trying sphere of missionary operations. With his accustomed straightforwardness

the Bishop's latest epistle deals with the farce of the late Sultan's proclamation, granting liberty to slaves and slave-born according to defined stipulations. On this he says:

"Last year we were rejoiced to hear that a great advance was to be made towards the abolition of slavery in Zanzibar dominions. Proclamations were to be issued that all slaves imported after November 1 of last year were to be free, and that all children born within the Sultan's dominions after January 1 of this year would be born free. The first proclamation was issued, but only remained posted up in Zanzibar a very short time. The second proclamation has not been issued at all. Practically no action has been taken upon either, and we have every reason to fear, to our bitter disappointment, that these promises are entirely illusory, and are likely to remain a dead letter, in spite of urgent representations on the part of the English Government and its representatives in Zanzibar."

If the good impressions which the new Sultan of Zanzibar has made by releasing untried prisoners and taking counsel in matters of importance be continued, it will inspire hope that the humane edicts will be promulgated. It is matter for rejoicing that her Majesty's Consul General is Colonel Euan-Smith, and Sir John Kirk the Sultan's Envoy at the Congress now in session at Brussels.

Africa.—**Kaffaria.** Letters have been received by the Foreign Mission Secretary from the Rev. Alexander Welsh, Emgwali, stating that a remarkable work of grace has appeared among the people at that station. The people trace the awakening to the week of prayer observed in February.

Under date Sept. 27, Mr. Welsh writes: "I have much pleasure in informing you that over 100 persons have been admitted to the candidates' class here within the last three months on profession of conversion to God. The great majority of these are young men and young women. For several years we have labored, and looked for the conversion of the young people in the district, and now God has granted us a reaping time, and the joy that accompanies it. Special meetings have been held in the church and the girls' school, as well as at all the villages throughout the district. It has been very pleasing to see the hearty

interest that many of the people have taken in these meetings." Under date of Oct. 4, he says: "I have again the pleasure of informing you that several more individuals were admitted to the candidates' class this week. Not only is there a large number of young people among the converts, but there are several elderly people, who seemed to be hardened against the gospel; they also have been arrested, and brought to the feet of Jesus." And on the 11th: "I have again the pleasure of informing you that ten individuals were admitted to the candidates' class this week, on professing conversion. There are about 150 in the class now."

—We are always gratified by the public recognition of woman's ability, and the following, in regard to a medical woman and a former missionary, is especially appreciated:

Miss Jane Waterston, M. D., a Scotch lady, has had quite an experience. The daughter of a prominent citizen.