

MISSION FIELD.

WIDENING HORIZONS.

(From the S.P.G. Mission Field for December, 1889).

[CONTINUED.]

Nor is this all. Methods of colonisation are now rapidly changing, and lands are peopled at a rate that was as impossible as it would have been incredible some years ago.

The North Borneo Company, which has secured a large territory in that island which has been one of the Society's holds for more than forty years has gladly given its cooperation, and has liberally assisted the Rev. W. H. Elton, whom the Society has sent to Sandakan, the capital.

Our readers have for some months been following the steps of the Bishop of Bloemfontein in the journal of his adventurous travels, of which the last instalment appears in our present number. The whole of the country through which he passed was sparsely populated; some of it may almost be called a desert. According to all the precedents of the past it would have been long, very long, before even our national spirit of enterprise had colonised those regions, and we may say without boasting that colonisation is an art in which the Englishman excels beyond all comparison. But as has been said methods are changing. It is not now the poor who can no longer bear the pressure of life at home who seek in new countries the home-lands and the independence denied to them at home. It is capital, in volume unlimited and directed by wealthy and shrewd companies or syndicates at home, which now seizes on enormous countries, and throws across the area a network of railway, canals, telegraphs, and 'floats' other ventures for the opening of coal fields for the working of gold mines, and generally for developing all the latent capacities of the country.

Lamentably on the return of the Bishop of Bloemfontein to his home there was a stir in the South African Church, which in its poverty saw the duty of extending her frontiers at least up to the Zambesi, the northern limit of the Bishop's journey. Ways and means make the Church's action slow. Capital has no such difficulty. Every loan that is 'floated' is subscribed many times over, and money has to be rejected because it is offered in volume greater than can be employed. Speculation is active and eager; risk of loss is incurred, and gladly; and so within the last few weeks a gigantic company has been founded under royal charter, which will at first occupy a region one third greater than Germany, which is to be known as British Zambesi. In the words of the *Times* of October 22:

"The principal field of operations of the British South African Company, according to the charter, shall be the region of South Africa lying immediately to the north of British Bechuanaland, and to the north and west of the South African Republic, the Transvaal, and to the west of the Portuguese dominions. No

western limit, it is seen, is stated; that was perhaps unnecessary, as of course it is settled that the 20th degree of east longitude marks off the widest German claims. Ample room is thus left to the company for the expansion of its territory, and the charter expressly stipulates that it is at perfect liberty to do so by every legitimate means, east west and north. The company is authorised to acquire whatever other concessions it can including all or any rights, interests, authorities, and powers of any kind or nature whatever including powers necessary for the purpose of government and the preservation of public order in and for the protection of territories, lands, or property comprised or referred to in the concession and agreements made as aforesaid, or affecting other territories lands or property in Africa or the inhabitants thereof; In short the company is empowered to govern the territories embraced in its charter in the name and in behalf of the interests of the British Empire."

Thus in a few years this corporation, resembling as it does in some features the old East India Company, will have occupied the country up to the borders of the Congo and Lakes Tanganyika and Nyassa. The Lake Companies, which are at present colonising that country are ready to be absorbed into Zambesi, while on the north east the British Imperial East Africa Company is tending from the Victoria Nyassa in a south westerly direction, and will at no distant day meet the others. The influx of Englishmen and English capital into the two South African Republics will soon make those countries English in influence, language and sentiment, and there can be no reasonable doubt that England will have the dominating power over the whole of the continent. A skeleton map is given to enable our readers to verify our words.

We must here lay down our pen. But we doubt if any one will challenge the heading of this paper and deny that our horizons are widening wherever we look. To our readers we would say, lift up your eyes and see; lift up your hearts; lift up holy hands and pray that you and all your brethren in the fellowship of our Communion may have grace to rise up to the great opportunities which God puts in our way to try faith and test our love.

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