

my time at my command I could get on very well, and the printer seems to be of the same mind. It is of vast importance to have the Scriptures in Africa. In that country there are thousands of hamlets and villages scattered throughout the interior, and the visits of the missionaries to them are few and far between. It is a consolation to the missionary to know that there are Bibles there; that in those little isolated towns and villages there are those who can read the Scriptures and can preach, for we have native preachers who are able to hold forth the Word of Life. The light of heaven has dawned upon this people, so that their views are very different from what they once were. The time has gone by when a man would take up an English or a Dutch book, put it to his ear, listen intently, and then say, 'It can speak to you, but it has not a word for me.' They know that the Word of God has a power to change men's hearts, to make bad men good, to make enemies friends. 'I cannot account for that strange book,' said an intelligent man on one occasion, 'but it must be a good book, for those whom I have known living in deadly hatred are now loving and helping each other.' I remember a young woman who could read well witnessing the influence of the Gospel upon some of her companions, observing how happy they were, how they could converse about death, and sing and be cheerful. It was inexplicable to her. She wished to feel in the same way. She accordingly took a New Testament, put it under her pillow, and slept upon it, in the hope that on the coming day she would rise a new creature. She was anxious to feel the Spirit of the Word; she believed there was a Spirit of the Word, and she thought that Spirit would enter her head when she was asleep, and that she would rise with the pleasurable feeling she had witnessed in her companions. I say it is of vast importance to have the Scriptures sent forth into those regions where it is so difficult on many occasions for the missionaries to visit. Not long before I left the station a woman came, bringing a boy with her, having travelled fifteen miles, and she said she wished for a New Testament. She brought the payment in her hand. I said to her, 'My good woman, there is not a copy to be had.' 'What,' said she, 'am I to return empty?' 'I fear you will.' 'Oh,' said she, 'I borrowed a copy once, but the owner has come and taken it away, and now I sit with my family sorrowful, because we have no book to talk to us. My boy can read, and he is teaching me to read. He reads and I pray. Now we are far from anyone else. We are living at a cattle outpost, and we have no one to teach us but the Book. Oh,' said she in true Sechuana style, 'go and seek a book. Oh, father! oh, mother! oh, my elder brother! do go and seek a book for me; surely, there is one to be found; do not let me go back empty.' I felt for her, for she spoke earnestly and feelingly, until I began to feel my own eyes a little watery, and I said, 'Wait a little, and I will see what I can do.' I sought here and there; at last I found a copy. I do not know whether I stole it or bought it, and I brought it to the good woman. Oh, could you have seen how her eyes brightened, how she clasped my hands and kissed them over and over again! Away she went with her book rejoicing, with heart overflowing with gratitude. 'Oh,' said she, 'I knew you had a heart. I told you you had a heart,' that is to say, compassion. The work has continued to prosper in the interior; thousands are learning to read, and the great difficulty with me now is how to supply them. I have great reason to hope that Africa will soon be enlightened, and stretch forth her hands unto God. Noble Livingstone is opening up the way from the east, and we do hope to see him soon. Other missionaries are moving onwards from the south, so that the dark regions beyond, ere long, will be illuminated with the knowledge of the Saviour. Let me say one word more. God has given us the Bible, and he has given it to us in order to send it to those who are perishing for lack of knowledge. I have witnessed the awful state in which the Bechuanas formerly lived, and I have seen what the Gospel has done amongst them. What has the Bible not done for millions! That mighty company which