

of missionaries is 226, of unmarried women, 210; and a total, including wives, of 625. There are 364 organized churches, 258 native ministers, and 536 other native helpers.

AFRICA.

—Dr. Dunning, of the *Congregationalist*, with a company of tourists spent a Sunday recently in Assiout, Egypt, and writes a glowing account of what he saw and heard there concerning the work of the United Presbyterians in the Nile valley.

—All you need to possess in Tangier to enable you to marry is a drum, a box, and to be able to borrow a mule. Weddings take place after dark. The groom sits at home drumming. He drums for ten straight days prior to his accepting the bride. The bride is placed in a box, which is securely strapped upon a mule. All her friends and relatives follow her around the streets for an hour or two, all the while hammering on drums or playing flageolets. They then dump the bride on the groom's doorstep.

—It is not often that a foreign embassy is greeted on its arrival in the country of the government to which it is accredited with such a message as that which was delivered to the envoys of the King of Ashantee on landing at Liverpool. They were officially informed that their king was "not a ruler of sufficient importance to be permitted to send ambassadors to Queen Victoria," and that, "under any circumstances, Her Majesty could not receive a mission from a ruler who, there is good reason to believe, allows and countenances the practice of human sacrifice."

—The French governor at Gaboon has had an interview with Dr. Nassau and Mr. Marling, and the happy result is a reversal of the injunction against school-work in the vernacular. The ladies at Benito have permission to re-

open school with the assistance of a French-speaking African.

—The latest attempt to enter and evangelize the Soudan has met with crushing disaster. Some young Americans conceived the idea of making the attempt by way of the Yoruba Country. They succeeded, but now two of them have laid down their lives. Mr. Gowans was found, exceedingly ill and almost destitute, at Loko, and died three days afterward. He had been continuously ill since leaving Lagos. Four others reached Bida, where they were stranded, unable either to advance to Kano as they wished, or to retreat. There Mr. Kent died, his companions being likewise prostrated with illness. The whole attempt seems to have been characterized by great personal piety and devotion, but not by proportionate caution or experience. Bishop Tugwell, in the gentlest manner, hints as much. He gives an interesting anecdote of Mr. Gowans: "When the body of dear Bishop Hill lay in his room awaiting burial, Gowans begged to be allowed to come and kneel and pray by the sleeping form; for more than an hour he knelt there in prayer, until I felt compelled to come in and gently lead him out. Together they followed the Lamb, now together they sleep in Him."—*Church Missionary Intelligencer*.

—From Banza Manteke, Mrs. Richards reports: "It is a joy to teach in the beautiful new school-house you have given us. It is built on iron pillars, 3 feet from the ground, and furnished with writing desks and forms. At the station is a school for women, 2 for children, and 17 in the towns. All together register 656 names, but there are many hindrances to town schools. At Banza Nkazi, a chief opposed to Gospel teaching threatens to beat and kill the children who go to school. He has just put all children of non-Christian parents in the Nkimba, an institution where they are taught fetichism and every impurity. In spite of all opposition, the chapel is crowded daily