

own hands. In all of which not only is there ground for grave fears, but also for grandest hopes.

AFRICA.

—Dr. Field, of the New York *Evangelist*, writes from Africa: "But it is upon the women that falls the extreme of poverty and all that it brings. However pretty they may be when young, they have to carry burdens that soon break their backs and their spirits, till they fade and at last wither up into the hags that we saw to-day, sitting by the road and stretching out their hands in utter want and misery. Such is the curse of Islam upon manhood and womanhood and childhood." And he closes his letter with these ominous words: "To-night, I must confess that Africa sits heavy on my soul. It is the Dark Continent, indeed. And is this all to which it has come in the thousands of years of its history—to be given up to the most brutal despotisms that ever trampled upon human beings, and to know even religion only in its lowest and most cruel forms, in fetichism and witchcraft, in devil worship and human sacrifices?"

—The *Mission Record* of the Church of Scotland refers to the fact that Alexandria is rapidly becoming a great centre for missionary and educational effort. "The Italian College is well known. The Greek schools are splendid buildings, and there is soon to be added to them a new school for girls, at a cost of about £10,000. The mission to the Jews has been developed in many directions. A neat new Episcopalian church has recently risen in Ramleh. The Wesleyan pastor, Mr. Elliott, has a very small congregation and no church, but he ministers to a large number of the soldiers of the army of occupation. The old-established American Mission finds its work chiefly among the Copts. Evangelistic work is carried on by other agencies among Europeans of various nationalities."

—The missionaries attached to the

Mendi and Sherbro Mission, on the West Coast, have discovered an immense deposit of plumbago of the richest quality, and an extraordinary deposit of quicksilver, and some pearl and shell fisheries. A London mining engineer has gone to report on these properties, and if the statements should be corroborated a syndicate will found a company to work these mines.

ISLANDS OF THE SEA.

—That Fiji, a crown colony, has no British troops, the only armed force being a handful of native police, speaks volumes for the value of Christianity, which, sixty years ago, was not known by name in the islands.

—The Wesleyan returns from New Guinea are as follows: Churches, 8; missionaries, 4; lay missionary, 1; missionary sisters, 2; teachers, 26; local preachers, 1; native members, 44; schools, 8; scholars, 240; attendants on public worship, 5790.

—It is impossible but that occasions of stumbling should come; but woe unto him through whom they come! That is, even the weakest of converts from heathenism must needs meet fierce temptations, but how dreadful beyond expression it is that their most deadly foes are transported from Christian lands! As an illustration, Dr. Paton, in an address on "Rum in the South Seas," said that the Christian natives voluntarily gave up their native drinks, pipes, and tobacco, and have nothing to do with the liquors brought to the islands. But traders in great numbers came with liquors, and murders and suicides are the consequence.

—Recent disciples on Futuna, New Hebrides, were sacred men who professed to be able to make rain, and by sorcery to bring disease and death. When they joined the class for Christian instruction they willingly brought their sacred stones held as dear as life itself, and burned them in the public square.