

The King is about twenty-four or twenty-five years of age, and is the son of King Heilo Melacot, son of King Sahellah Salasieh, with whom the English in 1841 entered into commercial treaty, having sent out an expedition from Bombay in April of that year, consisting of mechanics, soldiers, and scientific men. The treaty had only been ratified by the King and people a short time before the expedition was recalled, the Government having been changed by a change of Ministry taking place in London. About 1856, King Theodore of Abyssinia made war against Shoa, and conquered it, taking Prince Menelek prisoner, whom he brought to Magdala, where the Prince first met Waldmeier in 1859, and a strong friendship sprang up between them. The Prince was appointed a commander in Theodore's army, but seeing how everything seemed to be going wrong, and being grieved about the imprisonment of the Europeans, he took the first opportunity after word had come of the commencement of war between Theodore and the English of making his escape from Magdala, when he was joined by many thousands of his Galla countrymen; and he was proclaimed King of Shoa in the midst of great rejoicing, and that within sight of King Theodore and close to Magdala.

Shoa is in the southern part of Abyssinia proper, and is about nine degrees north of the Equator. It originally formed a province of Ancient Ethiopia, but on account of its great distance from the seat of Government it seems to have become an independent kingdom from time immemorial. The climate is fine and healthy, and cooler than that of Syria, mostly owing to the land being so much higher—the Shoa mountains being from 8000 to 10,000 feet high.

Shoa is nominally a Christian kingdom, like Abyssinia, but is surrounded on every side by Gallas, who on the north and east are Mohammedan, and on the south and west heathens. These Mahomedans, or Wolo Gallas, and the heathen Galla tribes living in the countries adjoining Shoa, are all subjects of King Menelek, but to whom as yet the Gospel of Christ has never been preached. It is now reported that the Mohammedan Gallas desire to have the Christian religion spread among them, for their Mohammedanism is really only such in name. The heathen Gallas have no images or idols, but simply recognise God the Supreme Being as existing in everything in Nature, whether it be the beautiful blue sky above their heads or the venomous serpent beneath their feet. They have no castes, religious or secular, nor is their language committed to writing in any form. The Gallas on the high lands are amiable

and clever, and in this respect, as well as in physiognomy, differ much from those of the low countries.

Surely, with these facts before us, and remembering that the Gallas are now one of the few nations of the earth to whom the Gospel is utterly unknown, their claims to the prayers and mission efforts of God's people must receive a high importance by those who esteem the word of the Lord Jesus, and specially since many laborious servants of Christ, such as Bishop Gobat of Jerusalem, Dr. Krapf, and Mr. Waldmeier, have long been praying and labouring for the opening of this dark field for the light of the Gospel. It is an interesting fact that almost at the same time at which the invitation from Shoa comes to Mr. Waldmeier there should issue from the press Dr. Krapf's translation of the New Testament into the Galla tongue, at the cost of the British and Foreign Bible Society. It seems as if the Lord were doing what was done in old time, when St. Peter at Joppa was being prepared to preach the Gospel at the self-same time that Cornelius at Cæsarea was being prepared to receive it. This translation is the first and only one that has been made in the Galla tongue, and it is printed in Amharic letters. "Ethiopia shall soon stretch out her hands unto God."

New Guinea.

The following information is from the Rev. A. W. Murray, dated July 10, on board the *Surprise*, Warrior Island, near New Guinea. Writing to the Rev. J. P. Sunderland, agent of the London Missionary Society, he says: I have now the happiness to inform you that the New Guinea mission is fairly underway. Within the last ten days we have succeeded, by the help of God, in landing teachers on Darnley Island, and Tauan and Saiwai, close to the main land, and two more are appointed to Bampton Island, also close to the great land. We have placed two on Darnley Island in the meanwhile; but one of them goes to Murray Island, about thirty miles distant, in a short time. He will be accompanied by some Murray Islanders now on Darnley, and will meet with a good reception.

"Tauan and Saiwai are close to the main land, one point of the latter not more than a mile and a half distant; the other, in some parts, not much further; and by placing the teachers on these islands we escape the two grand obstacles in the way of the evangelization of New Guinea, viz.: the sickness of the climate, and the danger at present from the ferocity of the natives. Tauan is entirely free from fever and ague, and it and Saiwai are only four miles apart, and between all there is a leading wind all