

degraded Hottentots. At that time this part of Africa, now called the Cape Colony, was in the hands of the Dutch. Many Dutch farmers cultivated large tracts of land to the north of Cape Town. The Hottentots, to whom the Missionaries were sent, lived scattered amongst these Dutch people, and were mostly engaged as farm servants, or in some other way under the Dutch settlers.

"The first Missionary that went was called George Schmidt. He was a Moravian by birth, and had suffered much persecution and imprisonment in his native country for the name of Christ. He arrived in South Africa in the year 1736, and was kindly received by the Dutch governor at the Cape, to whom he had letters of introduction. He proceeded at once to his station, and began his work forthwith. On his approaching the place, the Chief, Africo, with his people, came out to meet him with a band of native musicians, in true Hottentot style, to do honor to him as their teacher. The next day he began to build his hut; Africo and his people helped; and in six weeks it was fit for him to sleep in. While this was going on, he tried to learn the Hottentot language, but found it very difficult. There were three clicks used in the pronunciation of the words, that completely beat him; and the people were highly amused at his efforts to sound them. Finding their language so hard to learn, he resolved to teach them to read and speak Dutch; and numbers of them readily began. After spending about a year at this station he removed, with eighteen Hottentots, to a desert spot on the Serpant's River, and there went on with his school and other work. In a little time one of the young men, whom he named William, paid much attention, and seemed deeply impressed with Divine things, and in 1742 he was baptised, as the first fruits of God of the Hottentot nation. Soon after, he baptized the Chief, Africo, another Hottentot of the name of Jonas, and two Hottentot women, whom he named Magdalena and Christina. As soon as the news reached Cape Town, that Schmidt was baptizing the Hottentots, a number of persons began to fault, and never rested till they got the governor to dismiss him from the country, and send him back to Europe. It was a great grief to poor Schmidt to be thus sent away, and he left them with many tears. His efforts were made by Schmidt and

his friends at home to get permission for his return, but all in vain; and he never was allowed to go back. You may be sure, however, that he did not forget them. He lived two-and-forty years after, but never for one single day did he fail to think of his Hottentots. Every day he went to his bed-room, and there spent an hour on his knees, praying for South Africa. One day he stayed much longer than usual, and his servant went to see what kept him; but there, upon his knees, was poor Schmidt found, a cold and lifeless corpse. *He had died praying for South Africa!*

"Nor did he pray in vain. Not long after, the opposition to the mission gave way, and good men were allowed to go again to the Hottentots. The Moravians sent out more preachers, and these came to the very place where Schmidt had been laboring before. They found part of the walls of his hut still standing, and several fruit-trees of his planting, especially a fine large pear-tree. They found also one of the first of his converts, Magdalena, still alive. She was now very old, bent down with years, and very nearly blind; but she still remembered her former teacher, and was overwhelmed with joy when she found that more preachers had come to take his place. This old woman was the only one of Schmidt's converts left; but she had helped to keep the light of truth burning in the wilderness. She had still the Dutch Testament that Schmidt had given her, carefully wrapped up in a sheepskin. Round this Testament she had often gathered her fellow countrywomen to hear her read the words of life, and, there is reason to believe, not without doing good. The Missionaries were delighted to see the book, and preached their first sermon from its time-worn pages. Thus God had remembered poor Schmidt's prayers, and thus had he at last sent Missionaries to enter on his labors. This was in the year 1793.

"The next Missionaries that went to South Africa were Dr. Vanderkemp and three others, all of whom were sent out by the London Missionary Society."

"The destination of these Missionaries was Caffraria; but on reaching Cape Town two of them were induced to go on a mission to the Bushmen, the most savage and ignorant of the African tribes. The names of these two Missionaries were Kichener and Edwards; and, after parting with them, Dr. Vanderkemp and his companion, Mr. Edwards, journeyed on to Caffreland. Many were the dangers