

being variously estimated at from six to twelve thousand in number. The Shikams next came over the mountains, then a wild, fierce, numerous and powerful tribe; but who, though still more numerous than the Mpongwes, have almost literally sold themselves out, and are scattered among the border towns of the Mpongwes and Bakils. This last named tribe came over the mountains yet later, overpowering the Shikams, and are the principal occupants of the branches of the Gaboon. They thus far know but little of trade, have had little to do with rum, the great bane of these tribes, and are in many respects a promising people. Within ten years the Pangwes have made their appearance; though rude, and, possibly, some of them cannibals, yet a noble race, muscular, healthy looking and uncontaminated with the vices of civilization. They wear scarcely any clothing, many of them paint their bodies with redwood, and nearly all of them wear ornaments of white beads, ivory and iron rings. Their iron seems of a superior quality, and many of their implements are made with a taste and skill equal to that of any people in the world. Already not far from ten thousand of them are settled on or near the waters of the Gaboon; and they say they are only the pioneers of those who are to follow.

The government in all these tribes is purely patriarchal. The term *king* is derived from Europe; no power answering to the name is possessed by him on whom it is conferred; and no central power exists, which is acknowledged by the separate villages. Slavery in a mild form, polygamy in perhaps its worst character, and, on the lower waters of the Gaboon, intemperance, prevail. Witchcraft is universally believed in.—Death, whatever its immediate cause, is very generally attributed to this; and he whom suspicion fastens upon as the witch, is made the victim of a relentless superstition. Still the people are farther advanced in civilization than any other on the whole coast, and possess such elements of character as give promise that they will rise rapidly under the influence of the gospel. Their general disposition is mild and peaceful, and they manifest an unusual desire for instruction. The Mpongwe language is spoken very extensively along the coast, and is supposed to be, with more or less dialectic differences, very largely throughout Southern Africa. It is wonderfully perfect in its structure, of great flexibility, and pleasant to the ear.

Stations.—The oldest station is Baraka, on the north side of the Gaboon, about eight miles from its mouth, on a rising ground, half a mile from the edge of the water, and in the immediate vicinity of King Glass's Town. Ten miles from Baraka is Konig Island, about three miles in circumference, densely wooded, with only one small town; but on account of the ease with which a large number of towns can be reached from it, occupied a part of the time by one of the missionaries. Ovizue, a small town frequently mentioned, though not a station, is on a point of land on the south side of the river, forty miles from the ocean, near the junction of the Rembeve and the Big Orombo. Three miles back of this is King George's Town. Opposite Ovizue is Dongila, a range of high coast eight or ten miles in length. Three miles up the Rägäli, which comes into the Gaboon from the north, at the lower end of the Dongila district, at Ebu-na's Town, is to be the station of Mr. Porter. The position is very favourable, there being at least eleven towns on that river, six in Dongila, two opposite Dongila, two at the mouth of the Asango, which enters the Big Orombo a few miles above the Rägäli, and two near the mouth of the Banja, a branch of the Gaboon next below the Rägäli, any one of which he will be able to visit in a canoe and return the same day. Frequent excursions can also be made from it to the Pangwes.

The Gaboon mission was commenced in 1842. The first church was formed July 21, 1843. The number of communicants is twenty-two.—*Jour. of Miss.*

SOUTH AFRICA—COUNTRY OF THE ZULUS.

Face of the Country, Climate.—The present seat of the mission to the Zulus is not in the proper Zulu country, but farther down the coast, in the colony of Port Natal, to which, some years ago, the Zulus fled in great numbers to escape the brutal tyranny of Umpani, who had stretched authority over them. The region occupied by the mission, stretches along the coast, north and south of Port Natal, about 140 miles, and extends into the interior not far from forty. It is about 900 miles from Cape Town. Those who describe the country are in raptures with its beauty. "The scenery," says one, "is truly magnificent. Hills and valleys, mountains and table lands, rivers and brooks, all mingle together presenting an imposing spectacle. And all is living green, moreover, save here and there a rocky peak or mountain precipice; and the traveller is never weary of beholding, and admiring what he beholds. In riding from Umsunduzi, I crossed one stream nine times; and I think its beauty surpassed that of almost anything of the kind which I have ever seen.—At one place it flowed gently between its grassy banks; at another it dashed in cascades over sloping rocks; at another it meandered in deep ravines; and thus it assumed almost every aspect of which it was capable. And some of the mountain peaks appeared, in the distance, like vast spires of rock; and the openings between the perpendicular, extraneous mountains, appeared like windows to admit the light of heaven into the vast basin below. Scattered here and there is the mimosa, giving the country the aspect of a peach orchard, with the perennial freshness of spring. As you go out among these groves, you now and then startle the springing buck and the bounding deer; which leap forth and are out of sight beyond the hills, leaving no time to admire their beauty." The mountains, which are not large, and tabular rather than conical in

shape, have their "summits and sides covered with verdant groves, or thick shrubbery, or large fields of green grass;" while the "plains rival in beauty the richest meadows on the Connecticut."

The air of this land of mountains and valleys, hills and plains, and streams of water, is delightfully pure; and the climate salubrious. In the summer months, which are the same with those of our winter, the heat is not too oppressive for labour to be pleasantly performed; and in the winter it is seldom cold enough to render a fire necessary.

Soil and Productions.—The Soil is fertile. As one rides over the plains, the grass, which is thick set at the bottom, often reaches as high as the back of his horse, and if he turns his course to the fields of corn, of which two crops may be raised in a year, he finds it higher than he can reach. Productions are abundant, being such as corn, sweet potatoes, pumpkins, peas, beans, beets, carrots, cabbages, onions, oranges, lemons, bananas, pomegranates, indigo, and cotton.

The people, their dress and habitations.—If from the descriptions of the country one would be almost led to conclude it is a paradise, yet a slight acquaintance with its inhabitants would convince him, not only that the spoiler has been there, but that he has been leading them captive at his will so long, that it was not possible for them to be brought down much lower in their degradation. True, they are brave, and in some of their wars have manifested no little military skill; they are impatient of oppression and wrong; they have never engaged in the slave traffic; they are of a highly social nature; in their appearance there is much that is noble; but in their idolatry they have descended to the worship of four-footed beasts and creeping things, lying, deception and theft are every day affairs, murder is not uncommon, polygamy is their darling sin, filthy conversation and singing impure songs are daily practiced by all without any shame; licentiousness, as a matter of course, and intemperance abound. Of their dress, Mr. L. Grout, says: "A few feathers upon the head; a profusion of beads upon the neck and arms, and sometimes upon other parts of the body; a small piece of the skin of some animal about the loins; and, perhaps, a brass ring upon the wrist and a strap covered with hair about the ankles, constitute as much wearing apparel as most of the natives are in the habit of using. Some who are under the more immediate influence of the missionaries, have procured blankets; and a few dress somewhat in the style of civilized people. But for one person properly clad, hundreds and thousands go destitute, even of the beads and skins of animals to which I have referred." Their habitations, as described by the same observer, are nearly as hostile to their rising from their degradation. "Their huts which are made of wattles and covered with thatch, are simple, small and rude; hemispherical in shape, having a diameter at the base of some eight or ten feet; being in height at the centre and apex, only four or five feet; having but one aperture, and that at the base, about two feet high, and made to answer for doors, windows and chimney. When they need a fire, they build it in the centre, and sit around it on their usual seat, the earth. A mat woven of reeds, for a bed, a low wooden stool for a pillow, calabashes and baskets for containing water and food, a spear which is used also as a knife, and, perhaps, a wooden spoon, constitute their chief articles of furniture. Five or ten of these huts, arranged at about equal distances between two concentric circles made of stakes and bushes, eight or ten feet high, the outer circle having a diameter of four or five rods, and the inner one a diameter of three or four rods, and enclosing a yard for the cattle by night, constitute a kraal. Every kraal is owned by one or two men who have each a hut to themselves, while their several wives occupy each another hut by themselves."

Language, Government.—Their language belongs to the great family of languages which prevails south of the equator. It is very regular and far from unphilosophical in its structure; with the exceptions of a few clicks, quite harmonious in sound, and easy of acquisition. Mr. Bryant having preached in it in ten weeks after his arrival. Since British authority has been extended over the Natal Colony, locations have been assigned to the Zulus, in which it was intended they should be distributed to the number of 5,000 to 10,000 in each. The number now in the colony is about 110,000. They are under the protection of British law, and have magistrates who are appointed by the Colonial Government. The stations occupied by the mission have been fixed upon, to a considerable degree, in reference to their locations.—*Jour. of Miss.*

JERUSALEM, PALESTINE, AND SYRIA.

BY DR. J. V. C. SMITH.

Jerusalem is tolerably clean from its location on a steep hill-side, and not because its inhabitants are disposed to keep it in good condition. Filth pertains to Arabs wherever they are. Deep cisterns abound, cut into the solid rock, in which rain water is carefully collected, which is used for all domestic purposes. Water-carriers bring some in skins on donkeys from the pool of Siloam, but few only are able or desirous to have a supply without the walls. A fine stream is conducted to the city from Bethlehem, winding about the mountains, which is exclusively devoted to the purposes of the celebrated mosque of Omar, on the very plot once occupied by the temple of Solomon.

Wood for fuel is always dear, being sold by the weight, and is principally roots of olive trees, brought from a distance on camels. If trees were planted as suggested in this communication, fuel would be abundant and reasonable. No house has a fire-place or chimney. A little char-