

AFRICA.

—It is said that not even one Arab woman in Algeria is able to read. Hence the Gospel must be spoken to them.

—The state of religion in Algeria is unique. There are four established or State-paid forms of worship—namely, the Roman Catholic, the Protestant, the Jewish, and the Mohammedan.

—Ethiopia is certainly lifting up her hands, not only to God, but in defence against the vices of civilization. A Zulu church recently organized has it among its by-laws that “no member shall be permitted to drink the white man’s grog.”

—Twelve new missionaries have been sent out to reinforce the Zambesi Industrial Mission, making 30 in all. The amount of land now owned is 100,000 acres. An effort is to be made in behalf of 150,000 slaves found in the vicinity.

—The station of Lavigerieville, founded by the White Fathers on the shores of Lake Tanganyika, has already become an important settlement. When the missionaries first settled there in 1883 there was nothing but “the desert and brushwood.” Since then a large extent of territory has been purchased at a cheap rate, and, when fully cultivated, it will be able to support 100,000 people. It is an undulating plain, bounded by the rivers Lope and Kanwema and traversed by two others. At first the Fathers established themselves close to the lake, but owing to the fall in the water during recent years, they found themselves amid swamps, and had to move to high ground about one mile inland. There they have built an orphanage for boys and another for girls, in number about 300, all redeemed from slavery, and also several villages for Christian households. Altogether there are some 2000 inhabitants—natives, catechumens, and inquirers.

—The Jesuits, to whom the Apostolic Prefecture of the Upper Zambesi was committed in 1877, think the time has come to occupy Mashonaland, where the Protestant societies are putting forth all their efforts to win the natives to heresy. They have secured a farm of 12,000 acres to the east of Fort Salisbury, and their superior, Rev. P. Kerr, has just installed a troupe of missionaries there, newly arrived from Europe.

—In a missionary letter one of the torments of life in West Africa is noticed: “The carpenter working on this station is troubled with a bad foot. It is caused by what is called a Guinea worm. The foot is swollen as if an abscess were forming, and the swelling resembles one, but for a tiny hole the size of a pin-prick where the head of the worm is. When the foot is poulticed for some time the worm sticks its head out. This is taken and wrapped round a match or bit of stick and wound round and round; thus it is gradually pulled out, perhaps about a foot—sometimes more, sometimes less—every day, great care being taken not to break the worm. This worm is very little thicker than an ordinary thread and, the doctor says, is about twenty feet long. The development of the worm makes the swelling very painful.”

—The arrangements made by Sir Gerald Portal for harmonizing the religio-political variances in Uganda provide for 2 ministers of justice, 2 commanders of troops, and 2 commanders of canoes, 1 of each to be Protestant and 1 Catholic; all to have the approval of the British resident. In the distribution of territory, it is claimed that the Catholics have the larger share. So are reproduced on the continent of Africa some such ecclesiastical dissensions as 300 years ago in Germany gave us the Thirty Years’ War.

ISLANDS OF THE SEA.

—The King of Samoa has issued a proclamation forbidding, under pain of heavy penalties, any native Samoan or