

we have been obliged reluctantly to turn them away because there was no room; and once when the missionary took more on board his boat than its capacity would warrant, they were picked up by a kind English captain, who was much surprised to find an American missionary obliged to sail in this way, facing the dangers of that coast, so dreaded by men of experience. This captain transferred our boat's crew and passengers to his own vessel, and put them down near the island; he also provided them with life-preservers, and left them with the injunction never to venture on the sea again in such a craft; but we did venture again and again, for the bricks must be made even if the straw were wanting. Now the same journeys may be performed with comparative ease and safety. By means of our cutter we may traverse hundreds of miles of coast, travel up and down the Monda, Gaboon and Bonite rivers, thus obtaining access to more than twelve tribes north of the island, and many more south.

"We may also visit our sub-stations more frequently, and organize others as stepping-stones towards reaching the interior.

"Now, when making our tours, we may spend our nights in the clean little cabin of the *Else*, a palace in comparison with the miserable smoke huts of the natives, where heat, mosquitoes and other insects render sleep out of the question. When worn down with care and toil, and compelled to seek change, we may go aboard the cutter and be conveyed speedily and safely to some sister station, where we may find rest and new energy for the prosecution of our work, for we are not superhuman, and must sometimes faint under an accumulation of disadvantages, and this means of recuperation may prevent our utter failure. Or a trip out at sea may prevent the necessity of such frequent 'oscillations' between the continents, which are to ourselves so undesirable."

You will notice that her name is not so significant and suitable as the name of your own, and it is proposed to change it to "Majénjina" which, in the musical language of a tribe on the coast, means "Morning rays." This is really the name of your mission vessel, indicative of its character as a herald of the gospel day, blest messenger of the rising of the Sun of Righteousness over that distant land, with healing in its beams. Thankful that all who have sailed in her during the past year have been preserved from shipwreck, pray that during the present year she may carry her precious

freight of missionaries to the New Hebrides, and to their respective islands and mission stations with perfect safety.

P. G. MCGREGOR,
Sec. B. F. M. of P. C. L. P.
Halifax, March 22nd.

CHOICE OF THE WELL-WATERED VALLEY.

BY REV. A. FALCONER.

Our attention is here, at once directed, to the choice of Lot. A strife having arisen between his herdmen, and those of Abram, the latter, disregarding his own secular interests, and prompted by the spirit of peace, proposed that their encampments should separate, and generously placed the choice of locality in the hands of Lot. How beautiful it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! but where this is difficult, or impossible, a peaceful separation is also beautiful, as it prevents living together at variance. But what of the conduct of Lot? Being the youngest man, and the nephew of Abram, did he generously decline this noble offer, and refer the choice back to his uncle? No! without the slightest delicacy, he eagerly grasped at the anticipated benefit, and chose the richest portion. "Lot lifted up his eyes, and beheld all the plain of Jordan that it was well-watered everywhere. . . Then Lot chose him all the plain of Jordan."

Now in this choice two or three features indicate themselves.

1. A want of Christian magnanimity. We have just seen, what true nobleness of soul characterized the conduct of Abram in this matter. Lovely indeed, was the proposal that came from him; unlovely its acceptance, on the part of Lot. He seems to have shown little or no deference, or respect to his uncle in the whole transaction, and to have parted from him without the slightest reluctance.

And is it not to be regretted that professing Christians are still too often marked by a want of magnanimity? Christians beyond all others, should be generous in their treatment of their fellow men. If true nobility of soul is to be found anywhere, it should surely be under the Chris-