

VII.—PROGRESS OF MISSIONS: MONTHLY BULLETIN.

Africa.—The London Spectator reports a recent decree issued by the Sultan of Zanzibar which is more immediately important as a blow to the African slave trade than the conference at Brussels. Zanzibar has heretofore afforded the largest outlet for slaves from the interior. Under the decree of the sultan, the exchange, sale, or purchase of slaves is absolutely prohibited; all slave-dealing establishments are closed; all slave-brokers carrying on the business made liable to heavy penalties, and to deportation; all Arabs dealing in domestic slaves are included in this provision, and any houses hereafter used for any purpose connected with the slave traffic are to be forfeited. Regarding slavery in Zanzibar itself, the decree provides that on the death of their present owners slaves shall be *ipso facto* free, unless the deceased leave lawful children, who alone may inherit them. Slaves cannot be willed away or sold after the death of their owner, and their ill-treatment by their masters will be severely punished, and, in certain cases, involve the penalty of forfeiture. Any Zanzibar subject married to a person under British jurisdiction is disabled from holding slaves, and all slaves now in the possession of such persons are declared free. Persons who have themselves been slaves are prohibited from owning slaves. Every slave is to have the absolute right to purchase his freedom at a reasonable price; every slave is to have the same rights as Arabs in courts of justice, and the sultan binds himself to accord them special protection. These regulations will undoubtedly inflict a very heavy blow on a large section of the slave trade, besides involving a very serious social revolution in Zanzibar. If, as is reported, this decree has been secured by English influence, the English protectorate in Zanzibar has made a most auspicious beginning.

—Africa has now within her borders 10 American, 12 British, and 13 continental missionary societies. There are more than 700 ordained missionaries, and more than 7,000 native preachers. It is estimated that there are, both white and native, about 175,000 communicants, and 860,000 adherents.—*North-western Christian Advocate*.

—Hamburg, July 23d.—The Reichstag, the first steamer in the new East African line, sailed hence to-day with a full cargo and several passengers.

—Congo Railway.—Over 1,000 Africans are now at work on the Congo railroad. On April 12th, two miles of it had been completed; this portion begins at Matadi, which is at the western end of the road, ninety miles from the sea. The principal difficulties lie in the building of the first ten miles before the level plateau of the Congo hills is reached. Twenty-

five Europeans superintend the work.—*African News*.

Brazil.—Protestant newspapers.—Brazil has at present six, to wit: *Imprensa Evangelica*, weekly; *Evangelista*, three times a month; *Apologista Christao*, weekly; *Expositor Christao*, fortnightly; *Arauto*, monthly; *Pulpito Eca igelico*, monthly. The representative Christian newspaper has not yet made its appearance in Brazil; a paper that is able to cover the whole ground. The capital and the men are both wanting. The present religious press is in the hands of busy, overworked missionaries who edit their newspapers in the hours stolen from rest.

China.—Recent trustworthy calculations of the population of the Chinese Empire, by Russian authorities, reckon it at 382,000,000, and the annual increase at 4,000,000. Not one in 10,000 ever heard of the religion of Jesus Christ.

—The China Inland Mission received last year £51,484, of which £33,642 were available for general mission purposes.

France.—The Rev. Dr. McAll, of Paris, in a recent letter, declares his intention to have anchored in the Seine a large missionary boat, which has done service in many of the French seaports. "It will be the first time," he says, "that this mode of evangelization has been attempted in Paris, but, though the population is not seafaring, we have the impression that with God's blessing, the novelty of the method will draw the attention of many hitherto ignorant of the Gospel. The cabin of the ship will contain nearly 200 persons, and we hope to have daily services on board for two months. The authorities have given us every facility and protection."

Formosa.—Rapid progress.—Some persons complain that the missionary work advances so slowly, but God often shows that He can accomplish His ends rapidly. One of the latest instances of rapid progress is the change wrought in the moral and religious condition of the inhabitants in Formosa, an island in the China Sea. The population here is mixed in character, being partly Chinese, and partly wild tribes. Among the latter people, the missionary began some fourteen years ago, to labor. At that time, idolatry held sway, and hatred was felt and expressed for the foreigners. The difficulties and obstacles in the way seemed almost insuperable, but the workers had faith and energy, and God was with them. They gradually found favor, and their labors proved successful. Now 12,000 conversions are reported, and churches are in full operation. Schools have also been started, a native ministry is being trained, and hospitals have been established. Christianity has thus gained a strong