

—Mr. Lafcadio Hearn in the October *Atlantic* has an impressive article on "The Genius of Japanese Civilization." He finds nothing permanent, everything shifting—sandals of straw, dwellings cheap and frail, the greater part of the 60 capitals the empire has had have completely disappeared, etc.

—Advices from Formosa are to the effect that the Japanese are gradually subduing the tribes that are opposing occupation of that island. The natives are making a stubborn resistance, but are steadily being overcome.

#### AFRICA.

—The Congo Railway continues to make steady progress; trains are now running 65 miles inland toward Stanley Pool.

—The Christian Alliance proposes to plant a line of stations 1000 miles long, from Matadi to Lake Tanganyika, on the eastern boundary of the Congo Free State. This will require the opening of 40 stations, and the sending out in the next three years of at least 100 new men to open them.

—The transcontinental telegraph line proposed by Mr. Rhodes several years ago—to extend from the Cape to Cairo—was not, when first proposed, regarded seriously by the general public; but it already extends, it seems, from the Cape to Blantyre, in the Shire Highlands, and during his present visit to England Mr. Rhodes will probably order, he says, "a further 500 or 1000 miles" of poles and wire. The southern end of Lake Tanganyika is to be the first objective point, and thence the line will proceed along the western bank of the lake, through Congo territory, to British posts in Uganda and along the Nile.

—Mr. Stanley says that more than 200 English companies are operating in South Africa, and largely on the capital furnished by the subscriptions of humble investors. Some of these companies have not paid dividends yet, but not one of them has made shipwreck in the bankruptcy court. The great

British South African Company has yet to pay its first dividend, but its capital stock, held at £2,000,000 to start with, is now £16,000,000.

—The new Moravian Mission in East Central Africa grows apace. The fourth station in Nyassaland has been fairly commenced. Mr. Theophil Richard reached Utengula, Merers's present capital, on March 18th. He was alone, for Mr. Kootz, his companion, had been detained on the road by an attack of fever, and did not arrive until the 21st. Meanwhile, Mr. Richard had several interviews with the "Sultan," who gave him a friendly reception, and permitted him to choose a site for the mission.

—The Universities' Mission is severely stricken by the recent loss of three of its staff—Bishop Maples, its gifted and devoted leader, who, with Mr. Joseph Williams, was drowned by the capsizing of the steel boat on Lake Nyassa, and Rev. G. W. Atley, who was killed by the Gwangwara.

—The stroke of lightning which ended the career of Menelek II., Negus of Abyssinia, removed one of the most interesting and energetic of African princes. He was of the Shoa tribe, and claimed lineal descent from King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba. When King John was killed by the Mahdists in 1889, Menelek, who had long ruled the Shoas, achieved the sovereignty over the other Abyssinian tribes, and was recognized as Negus by the Italians when they advanced inland from Massowah. Menelek was friendly to European arts and civilization. He imported Swiss engineers and artisans, who built stone houses, bridges, wagon roads, a flour mill, baking ovens, and a blast furnace for smelting iron. He induced his people to engage in various handicrafts by his personal example. While he lived, the Italians met with many difficulties in their colonial schemes; now that he is dead, there is no one to effectively dispute their ascendancy in the Abyssinian highlands.—*Zion's Herald*.