

marks; in 1895, to about 7,000,000 marks.

—Mr. Goodenough writes most hopefully of the present condition of the new church at Johannesburg. It will be remembered that a chapel was built over two years since, and that during the first year a debt of \$500 was paid, besides meeting the current expenses. On April 1st, 1895, there was a balance in the treasury of \$85. For the year ending April 1st, 1896, the receipts of the church were a little less than \$1200, and came within about \$70 of meeting all expenditures. The latter included the salary of the native preacher and a house for him, together with the cost of a class-room and some furniture for the chapel. This is a remarkable showing for a church composed of Zulus, gathered so recently in a new place. Mr. Goodenough writes of a plan for establishing another station eight miles from Johannesburg, at an important railway and mining center, where already a little chapel has been secured.—*Missionary Herald*.

—The British House of Commons voted £3,000,000, by 255 votes against 75, toward the construction of a railway from the port of Mombasa, in the Indian Ocean near Zanzibar, to the Victoria Nyanza, passing through the protectorate of Zanzibar, British East Africa, and Uganda. It is expected that 100 miles will be laid before next April, tho the railway is to follow the substantial pattern of existing lines in India and Egypt. It is estimated that the carriage of 3500 tons of freight in three trains each way per week will pay the working expenses. At present the government pays £37,000 per annum for portorage of stores alone from the coast to the Uganda, an item which the railway will reduce to £6500. The political advantage in tending to promote still further the consolidation of British power in Africa is too obvious to need comment.—*Montreal Star*.

The Uganda mission is less than

twenty years old, and in its earlier years passed through hottest fires of persecution. Last year the number of converts received was 2921.

—The *African Tidings* publishes a letter from a missionary describing a mission school at Likoma, which says: "The African does not take kindly to figures, but our little girls can do fairly long addition and simple multiplication sums, as well as the exercise we dignify by the name of 'mental arithmetic.' In this latter fingers are brought into play, and, what will amuse you more—toes! Quite unencumbered by shoes, they prove most convenient, and when a pupil's own set gives out, she may be spied eagerly borrowing the toes of her immediate neighbors to finish the calculation with! We treat Class I. to nice copy-books, sent out from England, and they all learn to write remarkably fast, and in many cases exceedingly well—faster far than many English children. So far 'J pens' are not fashionable, but each child has a pen-wiper of her own, which is in constant use; at first, it must be owned, somewhat to her teacher's horror. The pen-wiper is her own woolly little head, into which the pen is plunged every few minutes, and rubbed vigorously. I now look upon it as a kind provision of nature, and offer no expostulations. If ink gets spilt on the table it is wiped off with their own hands, no one being a penny the wiser; another advantage of a shiny black skin, which, by the way, I am getting to admire more than a white one. The little ones and newcomers write on slates, which they are cuddled up in their arms, quite disliking the use of a table. . . . Their education does not go far beyond the 'three R's,' for they seldom stay at school beyond the age of thirteen or fourteen, when we suddenly look round and find that our little girls of last year have shot up into marriageable young women, and off they go to keep house for themselves."