

Dark Continent, it is not the time to fear that Islam will rout or check Christianity and "rule" that vast continent, which is evidently destined to figure conspicuously in the future history of mankind, if we interpret aright the wonderful series of providences which has opened it up to view, and fixed the attention of the whole civilized world upon it, and enlisted, as never before, the combined forces of Christendom for the redemption and elevation of a degraded people.—J. M. S.

The Origin of Zenana Work.

[Understanding from Mrs. Armstrong, of Burmah, that Mrs. Elizabeth Sale, of Rockmount, Helensburgh, Scotland, could give information of the earliest movement in this direction, I wrote to her, and received the following reply. It will be of great interest to all who are interested in woman's work for woman.—A. T. P.]

"As soon as I knew enough of the language to make myself understood I began going into the villages among the women of India, in 1852. In 1856 I got first an entrance into a Zenana proper. In 1858 I began work in Calcutta, and worked more than a year in my first house before I got any one to take anything out of my hand. It was very difficult to get one of the ladies to look at a book, as they feared being made widows if they desired to know anything of the outside world. As soon as some little bits of work were finished—a little pair of shoes and a bit of canvas work—I had them make up, which so delighted the husbands and brothers, that the 'wonderful work' was taken to other houses, when invitations came to teach there also. The needle work had to be made the *bribe* to induce the women to learn to read. I had then been so far blessed, that the ladies in three Zenanas were daily hearing the Scriptures read, and some had so far broken through their fears that they were learning to read.

"In 1860 my husband was ordered to Europe, when I heard of the arrival of Mrs. Mullens and her daughters. I

wrote to her of this opening, when she came and was introduced to the ladies of the three Zenanas. And from that time the work spread rapidly. Now there is no need of *work* as a *bribe* to learn to read; so anxious are the ladies in the Zenanas for instruction that where we have one female missionary we ought to have a hundred, and would if the Christian Church were alive to its responsibilities.

"Excuse this hurried reply.

"I am yours in the best bonds.

"ELIZABETH SALE."

—We have received a copy of a letter addressed to the Corresponding Secretaries of the American and Hawaiian Boards of Missions, and of the American Bible Society, from the Rev. Hiram Bingham, of Honolulu, announcing the completion of the translation of the Old Testament into the language of the Gilbert Islanders. Seventeen years ago he and his wife, who ably assists him in his work, rejoiced in the completion and publication of the New Testament. And now, after more than thirty-one years from the beginning, he is able to announce the completion of the entire Bible. We congratulate this beloved missionary that, with the valuable assistance of Mrs. Bingham, "a born linguist," he has finished the long and arduous work. It will be an enduring monument of patient and heroic work done for Christ. And we congratulate the Boards under whose auspices the translation has been made, and the American Bible Society which is to print it, "for a people now emerging from heathenism, and of whom not a few are waiting in eagerness for a complete Bible."—J. M. S.

—We have received the printed address made by Rev. J. T. Stevens before the Presbytery of Athens, Ga., entitled, "The Gospel can, and ought to be preached to the whole Heathen, Jewish and Mohammedan world in the next ten years." So far as the "ought" is concerned, it is undoubtedly true; and it "ought" to have been done *ten centuries* ago, and many more. But the "can," considered in the light of actual practical accomplishment, we more than question. We doubt the wisdom of fixing on a *brief definite period* for the world's