

trade, of Western Europe and the American colonies began; if the ships which proceeded to the African coast for human chattels had carried the Gospel and scores of missionaries, if the energy which has been applied in stimulating intestine and tribal wars for booty of men, women, and children, had been applied in education and in promulgating the arts of civilization, Africa would have presented a different aspect to-day. Two centuries of time would have been saved, the stigma now resting upon European influence would have been prevented; and the present contempt which so many among us still feel for the American race would not have been developed.

But we must take the world as it is to-day, and the conditions of society as they now exist; and whatever our disadvantages may be, they are more than counterbalanced, by the vitality of the truth of the Gospel as compared with the errors of Islam.

Christianity and Mohammedanism have contended for the mastery for twelve centuries, and the history of that contest is not doubtful in its bearing upon the final issue. We state the disadvantages aforesaid in order that they may be duly considered and vigorously met; but over against them stands the fact that there is not a Mohammedan power upon earth to-day that does not exist by the mere sufferance, and we may say by the support, of Christian powers. It has become proverbial that Mohammedan civilizations are everywhere effete; and whatever may be done to-day in Central Africa, the type of Islam there existing though purer and retaining more of its pristine strength there than elsewhere, cannot retain its power for a quarter of a century after the light now breaking all around the coast shall have penetrated the country.

We repeat, then, let us appreciate the real strength of the foe and the disadvantages of the contest, and thus be able to measure the force to be employed, while at the same time we remember that not only by prophecy, but also by the teachings of history and providence, the victory is sure.

PRESBYTERY MEETINGS.

Presbytery of Pictou.

This Presbytery met in New Glasgow on the 4th inst.

Mr. Sinclair declined the call from Vale Colliery and Sutherlands River.

Commissioners were present from

Springville, and Sunny Brae to press the withdrawal of his resignation of that charge. He asked for a month to further consider the matter.

Mr. John H. Cameron then gave in his trial for license. These were of a high order and were cordially sustained. He was duly licensed.

Mr. Cameron having been appointed by the Home Mission Board of the West, to which he had offered his services, to Mission work in the North West, it was necessary that he be ordained before proceeding to his field. It was agreed that in the exceptional circumstances, his trials for license be taken as trials for ordination, and that the Presbytery proceed to ordain him.

In the evening a large congregation assembled in United Church, Mr. McLeod preached, Mr. Laird offered prayer and Mr. Cameron was ordained to the work of the ministry. Mr. Goodfellow then addressed the missionary, and Mr. Donald the congregation on Mission work.

On the following day Mr. Cameron and his yoke-fellow left for Winnipeg.

Presbytery of Halifax.

This Presbytery met in Chalmers Church, on the evening of the 12th ult. for the induction of the Rev. W. S. Whittier and other business.

Mr. Jack preached, Dr. Burns presided, Mr. Laing addressed the minister and Mr. Morrison the congregation, after which the newly inducted pastor was welcomed in the usual way by the people.

Rev. J. Duncan, in view of the call from Edinburgh, tendered his demission of the charge of St. Andrew's Church. It was agreed to notify the congregation

Our Supplement Fund.

The report for the last year showed some improvement. The receipts exceeded the expenditure by \$130.87. In stating this gratifying fact the Committee added:—

The result however is not so gratifying as first appearances would indicate. The greatest difficulty has ever been, in meeting the July payment; and it is still very questionable if that can be accomplished without making the deduction shadowed forth at the time when the lists were submitted to, and passed by the General Assembly. But while aware of the difficulty, the Committee are not discouraged; for they can look back on twenty years of