

spite of their stumbling and falling under sore temptations—that their faith fail not.

The present outlook for missions in Turkey is not a bright one. Seldom has it been so terribly dark; but the workers are not discouraged, tho in tears. They only cling with a more perfect trust to the hand of their loving Father, while they look out through the mist of carnage and blood and pillage and fire over the seas to the friends afar, and plead for succor for the distressed, and for such a stream of united supplication at the mercy-seat as shall prevail over all the efforts of the evil one, and bring this whole country to the feet of its Lord and Master.

THE WEST AFRICA GIN TRAFFIC.*

BY REV. JAMES JOHNSTON, A.T.S.

A vigorous discussion has been carried on during 1895 in British circles upon the extent of the liquor traffic ravages in Western Africa, and the most effective means for curtailing it. Following a striking article in the *London Times* of March 8th, entitled "Spirits in Africa," there appeared on June 4th in the same columns shocking revelations of the gin traffic in West Africa from the pen of Herbert Tugwell, Bishop in Western Equatorial Africa. He observed that "gin and rum are being poured into the country in appalling quantities and that almost without let or hindrance," resulting in a lamentable obstruction to native civilization. This powerful rejoinder was a reply to an apologetic letter stating that altho the quantity of spirits imported was considerable, it was spread over a wide area, and, consequently, the individual consumption was small and practically harmless. *Per contra* Bishop Tugwell describes his recent observations.

Early in 1895 the lady missionaries of the Church Missionary Society in Abeokuta could not visit the native women in the compounds on account of the prevailing drunkenness. Respecting the outlook in an interior town one of the society's agents informed him: "The people are quiet. Kidnapping, murder, and human sacrifice are dying out under the

* Since the above article was written a cable advice of date October 16th, from Lagos, states that the import duties in that colony on spirits has been doubled—viz., from 1s. to 2s. per gallon, by the Lagos Government. There is every probability that this measure has been urged by the British home authorities in consequence of the powerful agitation during the past year against the wholesale supply of drink and its disastrous results in British West Africa. This resolution, which may be enacted in the Niger Coast Protectorate, is viewed with mixed feelings by British merchants, who fear that it may drive the trade both in spirits and other goods into the neighboring colonies. The apathy of the German authorities to join in the West African drink traffic agitation has some explanation in the fact that nearly the whole of the spirits are manufactured in Hamburg and Rotterdam, and admitted into the German colonies of the Cameroons and Togolam at the shamefully low duty of 2s. 6d. per gallon. All honor to the British for this humane and, eventually, economical step, which will secure the universal approbation of the friends of the African race. J. J.