

*What Should We Do for Africa?

THE following, which appeared in one of the Toronto dailies, should make every British Christian inquire earnestly into the spiritual welfare of British Africa:

"MR. RHODES' VIEWS.

"New York, January 14.—The *World* recently cabled Mr. C. J. Rhodes, the late Premier of Cape Colony, to send his view of the Transvaal situation, and to say what attitude he thought the United States ought to adopt under the circumstances. In reply Mr. Rhodes cabled as follows:

"CAPE TOWN, January 12th, 1896.

"*New York World*, New York:

"The position is that within the Transvaal there are 70,000 newcomers and an old population of 14,000. With the development of the gold industry to a fuller extent the newcomers will amount eventually to half a million, probably more. From time to time the position will be upset by the attempts of the new population to claim common civil rights, which eventually they certainly must get. Statesmanship should give them some rights now, as the present state is impossible for the newcomers, who own more than half the soil of the Transvaal, and nine-tenths of the wealth of the country. The new males outnumber the old five to one, and are composed largely of Americans, including the principal mine managers. England is the only great power in South Africa. She is now threatened with German interference, which she is bound to resist and resist. In this she should have America's sympathy. Blood is thicker than water. Americans, above all nations, insist on civil rights in one's industries here at the Cape. In the Transvaal all my managers are Americans. And yet we have the spectacle of the two great English-speaking nations of the world almost on the verge of war about some barren land in South America, whereas working in perfect harmony the peace of the world would be assured.

"C. J. RHODES."

"Blood is thicker than water." Should not the "Christian spirit" be stronger than "political spirit"? Should not the love of brother man and our love for Christ be stronger than the love of worldly gain? A common cause calls upon statesmen for united action. Should not the common cause of missions call for the united effort of all denominations? This is no time for competition at home—it is a time which calls for the sending of the Gospel to those of our brethren who are "scattered abroad," as well as "to the strangers scattered throughout" the so-called heathen countries. Should not the Church as well as the State follow her children? Should not "the banner of His love" keep pace with the Union Jack? Should not British Christians feel a responsibility for the souls of those over whom our Imperial Government assumes control?

Dr. F. J. Livingstone, whom Albert College, Belleville, Ont., sent to Africa last August as their representative missionary, in a letter written at Durban, Natal, received a short time ago by your missionary vice-president, says: "There is any amount of room for more missions, as there are hundreds of thousands of square miles up country without a single missionary. There are over 50,000 Indians in Natal alone, who have been imported from India, for whom nothing whatever is being done in the way of religious instruction."

*What Our Fathers Did for America.

WHEN Mr. Wesley visited Leeds, England, for the first time in 1743, a society had already been formed, and there was a class of ten members. The old Leeds Methodists used to say with delight, "When Mr. Wesley came to Leeds, he did not take us into society, for we took him in."

About a month after his brother's visit, Mr. Charles Wesley visited Leeds. On Sunday, May 29th, he writes: "Not a year ago I walked to and fro in these streets, but could not find a man, but a spark is at last lit in this place also, and a great fire it will kindle. At seven o'clock I stood before William Shent's door and cried, 'Ho! every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters.' The Word took place, they gave diligent heed to it, and seemed a people prepared of the Lord."

At the Conference held in Leeds in 1769, the preachers, as was usual then, filled the deep gallery, and Mr. Wesley sat in the seat of the principal singer, for there was no platform. On this occasion Mr. Wesley read some letters from a few persons in America, who said that they had formed a society, built a preaching house, and now wanted a preacher. When he had read the letters, Mr. Wesley asked the ministers who sat round him in the gallery, "Does any one of our brethren feel in his heart to go and help his friends in America?" On this a young man, apparently far gone in consumption, rose up in his place in the gallery and said, "If you will send me, sir, I will go in the name of the Lord." That was Joseph Pilmoor. Immediately another young man, also in the gallery, got up and said, "Sir, if you will send me, I will go with Brother Pilmoor." That was Richard Boardman.

At the Conference of 1772, Captain Webb, in person, pleaded the claims of American Methodism and not in vain, for Messrs. Shadford and Rankin were set apart for that work. In the Conference of 1778, the expediency of sending missionaries to Africa was discussed, but concluded that the time had not then arrived.

In the year 1813 the first missionary meeting was held in what was now called the old chapel. Dr. Coke, who sat in Conference for the first time in 1778, had by this time established our missions in Newfoundland, the West Indies, West Africa, and other places.

Besides organizing and directing these, he had also maintained them. In order to do this he had drained his own private resources, and begged like a common mendicant up and down the country. He had now resolved to go to India, and in thus doing to leave part of his burden to others. Under the circumstances many Methodists began anxiously to consider what would become of missions. One Sunday, about this time, one of the most eminent of the Leeds Methodists, Mr. W. Gilyard Scarth, rode out to Barwick to preach, he afterwards dined with his friend Mr. William Dawson, and the two were soon discussing Methodist affairs. "What is to become of our missions when Dr. Coke goes to India?" asked the host.

Mr. Scarth replied that, in his opinion, it was now time for our missions to become a public enterprise; that every Methodist should subscribe what he was able, weekly, monthly, or quarterly, and in this manner the funds might be raised.

That year the Conference discussed the same question very earnestly, and decided to have fewer ministers at home. THAT THE WORK ABROAD MIGHT BE CARRIED ON AND