

liberty and progress that were not compatible with the German spirit. Love of the Fatherland could not induce many children of the empire to forego the manifest advantages to be gained by living outside of it. Emigration resulted, and grew to large proportions. The great Chancellor therefore planned a colonization scheme, whereby the Germans, though going abroad, would not altogether leave the Empire.

West Africa was one of the localities looked to, and in 1875 Von Homoyer explored certain regions near the Congo, as a preliminary. Later on, Luderitz made treaties with the native chiefs around Angra Pequena, which led to a serious correspondence between Prince Bismarck and Earl Granville, with the result that the German claims were allowed, and Germany was from that time an interested and recognized power in West African affairs. The rupture between the Anglo-Portuguese party and the International Association gave an opportunity for the diplomatic skill of the great German minister, and at the end of 1884 he arranged a conference at Berlin, where representatives of all the powers met. Its results were chiefly the formal recognition of the Congo Free State and the delimitation of the territory belonging to it, as well as of that claimed by France and Portugal on the West African Coast. The present extent of the Congo Free State includes some 1,056,200 square miles and over twenty seven millions of inhabitants. Up to the present the growth has not been as rapid as was expected. The decrees of all the greater and lesser powers, issued from the Berlin conclave, have not as yet produced any appreciable effect upon the slave-traders, and the Congo Free State is not at all the International Arcadia it was intended to become. The country is rich and productive, the climate is such, excepting certain malarious belts, as Europeans can endure, and the inducements to settlers are advantageous; but the natives are thoroughly indolent, and the facilities for inland trade are not yet numerous or secure. The employment of Tippoo Tibb, an influential trader, is not likely to produce the effect on the slave trade intended, unless that old slaver proves very different from other chiefs, who have ever been ready to take prepayment for services not to be rendered.

Another mournful chapter to the history of African expeditions has recently been added by the deaths of Barttelot and Jameson in connection with the Emin Pasha Relief. The Arab slave-dealers are hostile to all civilizing agencies; the natives are averse to compulsory labour, and the Mahomedans are opposed to the spread of Christianity. Trouble must therefore be expected from all these quarters for a long period. It can only be by a very careful and thoroughly slow progress that a firm hold is to be had and held. It is useless marching into the interior and establishing small stations, under the delusion that either native or Arab will be overawed by a handful of settlers and a flag. In that case history will repeat itself, and the settlers will be settled in the same certain and painful fashion as in the past. The country must be treated as in war. The invading army of civilization must not push its front too far before its line of communication with the supplies at the rear is fully and thoroughly protected. Already many stations have been destroyed, and the work that was done too soon has to be again commenced.

The third route to Central Africa is by way of the river Shire, an affluent of the Zambesi, which flows from Lake Nyassa. Until late years Zanzibar was the central point on the East African coast from which the interior was to be reached, but the great Zambesi water route is rapidly displacing it, and Quilimane is the port that should naturally take its place, but unfortunately Quilimane is claimed by the Portuguese, and is therefore a closed port to free trade and free travel. The question, however, of obtaining easy access to the Zambesi Shire route to Central Africa is so absolutely important that it will soon be solved, with or without the help of a power that has forfeited its claim of priority through its utter incapacity and shiftlessness. The fate of African progress cannot be sealed by an effete power that nominally professes to be able to close the natural entrance gate.

To the north of the Zambesi lies Mozambique territory, which has belonged to Portugal more or less—and principally less—since 1497. But as on the Western—so on the Eastern—coast of Africa the Portuguese have effected nothing for good. They have levied taxes on trade, they have cooperated with the Arab slave-dealers, and they have made themselves thoroughly hated by the natives; their official system is debased and rotten to the core; their missionary efforts have proved failures, and their civilizing influences have never been felt. In point of fact, after claiming the major part of coast and inland country from Zanzibar to Zululand for several centuries, they really hold a few isolated trading stations for the benefit of certain plundering officials. What Portugal has not done in the many decades during which she has possessed the country, has been actually accomplished on a small scale by independent Britishers. The Nyassa Lake districts were altogether unknown to the world until Dr. Livingstone proclaimed their discovery. Since that time the Scotch and English have succeeded in planting missionary and trading settlements in the interior. The African Lakes Company and the British East African Association have been principally active in this work. The Church of Scotland has done great things also, and such settlements as Livingstonia, Blantyre and Bandawe testify that with real earnestness of purpose and determined energy the British have been able to accomplish in less than a score of years more real good in East Central Africa than the Portuguese have ever done. The other day the Portuguese claimed Blantyre, an independent colony of Scotch-

men founded in 1876, and it is high time that England awoke to the serious necessity of settling the recurring question of Portuguese claims. Blantyre and the other Nyassa settlements are growing and prospering. The settlers have turned the wilderness of wild waste to good account, and already wheat, coffee, sugar, potatoes and other food products are raised. The natives are being taught by example that honest productive labour is far nobler than idleness and war. Christianity hand in hand with peaceful labour has had wonderful effects on the heathen, and already slavery, witchcraft and tribe feuds are being driven away before the smoke of the settlers' homes and the bells of the mission church. This work has been done by private persons, without the aid of Government money or protection. It was an independent attempt to realize the teachings of the great Livingstone, an effort to prove that his life and life-long appeal to his fellow-countrymen were not thrown away. The result so far has been successful; the germ of East African civilization has been implanted, and, if this policy of peaceful labour and Christian example be pursued, the growth of that civilization will rapidly spread. Portugal foresees this, and is endeavouring by claiming the land to repress an influence that will be fatal, and properly fatal, to her own life in East Africa. As a matter of honour England is bound to prevent Blantyre falling into the hands of a robber; in the interests of Christianity and civilization England is bound to prevent the natives, who wish to exchange war for peace, slavery for freedom, and heathenism for the true religion of Jesus Christ, from falling into the hands of men who have helped the slave-trade, fostered tribe warfare and prevented the spread of the Gospel. The duty of England is clear and unmistakable, and every man who is interested in the British stations in East Africa, whether by actual possession or admiring sympathy, expects England this day will do her duty.

Another factor in East Africa is the German East African Association which, in 1886, took possession of about 600,000 square miles of territory by a treaty effected with the Sultan of Zanzibar, who modestly retained some fifteen miles of coast land as a pillow for his crown.

Regarding the competing forces in East and West African colonization, the Portuguese are not likely to increase their influence, or to extend their territory. A country that has failed for 400 years to carry out anything but slaves, ivory, and a most sordid policy, and which has never exercised a good influence over the natives is not likely to succeed against more active and spirited nations.

The Germans, in spite of rapid and pretentious movements and the acquisition of certain valuable coast-points and vast territories are not likely to long remain a permanent power in Africa. Although possessing administrative and executive ability, to which it would be impertinent to compare the official sloth and disease of the Portuguese; German colonization is distinctly an effort of the home government to prevent the loss of Germans to the Empire and to increase the foreign trade of Germany. It is artificial, and therefore likely to fail in arriving at either result. The German colonist would still be amenable to all the laws of the Empire, and the odious military system would certainly follow any Bismarckian policy. In America the German citizen is more free than in the Fatherland, and can more easily make a livelihood. The chances of his making more than a livelihood are also much greater. Socialism is more at home in Chicago, at least theoretically, than in Berlin or Somali-land. It is not likely, therefore, the German emigrant will select the imperial colonies in Africa in preference to a land where the Kaiser's master has no authority. Moreover, the German method of colonization is semi-military and semi-bureaucratic. The type and its results were seen in the Samoan fiasco, it is reproduced in East and West Africa. This kind of colonization is not likely to produce good results, either from a point of commerce or of civilization. The German East African Company, with its 600,000 square miles, has had to be subsidized by the Government; at present it cannot pay its current expenses. It is a matter of speculation whether Germany will continue to pay for working unremunerative colonies, to which Germans will not go. The total trade of Germany with Africa is about one-half per cent. of its entire foreign commerce. In case of trouble with the natives on a large scale (it has already been developed in several minor degrees), the German army could not spare troops from Europe, and the experiment of organizing native troops is not likely to find favour among the desired recruits. Nevertheless, Krupp guns and the most modern breechloaders are being sent in large quantities from the Fatherland, and the military character of the modern German Empire is being grafted on the colonies. Experience, however, has proved that it is dangerous to trust weapons that may explode in the hands of those who may direct them against you. German colonization has started with startling rapidity, and is liable and likely to end in as sudden a manner.

Of the aptitude of the British for colonizing it would be idle to speak at length at this day. If figures and facts are good witnesses the possession of some 9,000,000 square miles, with a population of over 316,000,000, testify that success follows the footsteps of the Celt and Anglo-Saxon when they are turned abroad. There is every reason to believe that the British would be as successful in Central Africa as elsewhere, and it is to be hoped that the British Government will afford at least protection to those of her children who may seek a home in the Dark Continent. It would be better perhaps for Africa if the British Government did more.—*Sarepta, in the Week.*

British and Foreign.

DR. ADAMSON, of Edinburgh, is invited to become Dr. Parker's co-pastor.

CLAREMONT U. P. Church, Glasgow, has resolved to call Rev. A. R. MacEwan of Anderston.

MISS MCHARDIE, of Cranford, has presented Ruthrieston Church with a new pulpit of carved oak.

THE licensed houses in the United Kingdom number 100,319, being one to every 20½ of the population.

THE membership of the Church of Scotland is this year 381,568, an increase of 2,566 on the previous year.

A MARBLE font has been placed in Tay Square U.P. Church, Dundee, as a memorial of the late Dr. McGavin.

THE Rev. Dr. Andrew Gray of Dalkeith, Prof. Story, and Rev. John Reid of Bridge of Allan preached the Assembly sermons.

A MEMORIAL window has been placed in St. Duthas Church, Tain, in memory of Rev. William Taylor, historian of the town and building.

AMONGST the candidates for the assistantship to Rev. David Macrae, of Dundee, are two French Church students, who find a difficulty in subscribing the Confession.

LAST year was the jubilee of the medical mission of South Travancore, fifty years having elapsed since Dr. Ramsay, the first medical missionary, began his work in Nagercoil.

MR. MACDONALD, student, has instituted an action in the court of session against Argyll Synod seeking to reduce its minutes recording that another student had obtained a bursary which he claims.

THE total number of members of the Free Church of Scotland on the 31st March stood at 336,335, an increase of 2,237 on the previous year. The income was £638,939, an increase of £46,083.

LORD DUNDONALD calls attention to the danger impending over the Universities mission stations at Magila in the north-eastern portion of the German sphere of influence in East Africa.

DR. WALTER C. SMITH, Mr. Salmond, of Rothesay, and Mr. McCulloch, the new minister of Hope Street Gaelic Church, Glasgow, preached in the Free Assembly Hall on a recent Sunday.

CONSECRATION day occurs monthly with the Cardiff congregation. It begins with a prayer meeting at eight o'clock in the morning, there is a Bible reading in the afternoon, and a mission service at night.

THE Archbishop of Canterbury is said to be of opinion that education among the middle and upper classes is retrograding very much; he shares this opinion with several headmasters of public schools.

THE venerable Mr. George Burns, son of Dr. Burns of the Barony and one of the founders of the Cunard Co. has been made a baronet. The honour might have come earlier as he is now in his ninety-fourth year.

AT the last Gaelic service in Crown Court Church, three ministers officiated—Dr. Donald Macleod, of St. Columba's, London; Mr. MacLachlan, of Ardochattan; and Rev. Peter Macdonald, of the Free Gaelic Church, Edinburgh.

AMONG the converts from Mohammedanism at Oroomiak there are five Sayids, direct descendants of Mohammed, who are held in especial awe and reverence; they attribute their conversion to the reading of the New Testament.

MR. JAMES M. SMITH, in celebration of his completion of fifty years' eldership, was presented by the congregation of Free Holburn Church, Aberdeen, with a purse of seventy-three sovereigns. Principal Brown made the presentation.

A MASSIVE granite monument has been completed at Inverness, which the congregation of Stoer, in the west of Sutherland, are about to erect to the memory of Rev. John Ross, their pastor, from 1848 till his death in October of last year.

EDINBURGH Free Church Presbytery have resolved to petition against the opening of the Botanic gardens on Sunday, though one elder, Mr. J. R. Hill, made some strong remarks on the other side.

THE Rev. F. B. Meyer is opening a cottage at Southend for the reclamation of lost and degraded girls. He is rejoicing over the unqualified success of his working lads' institute. The school-board officer testifies that he has cleared the streets of boys.

THE Rev. W. R. James, notable as a bazaar preacher in India, is to lead a fresh experiment. Himself a bachelor, half a dozen earnest young men are to be sent out to him; they will live together in the native quarter of some great city, and Mr. James is certain they can do so for less than \$250 a year each.

ANOTHER futile attempt has been made in the House of Commons to prevent the "restoration" of Dunblane Cathedral. Mr. Haldane, who lent his support at first to the scheme, now opposes it; and Sir George Trevelyan delivered a powerful speech against turning the lovely ruin into a parish church.

A NEW feature in connection with the anniversary of the London Missionary society, was a young men's meeting over which the venerable Joshua Harrison, the life-long friend of Samuel Morley, presided. The young men's missionary band consists of 292 members, the increase during the past year having been 101.

MR. HENRY ROHSON, of St. Paul's, Westbourne Grove, has greatly interested himself in St. Paul's, Milwall. His latest work is to provide a club house for working men close to the church, which has already attained a membership of forty. The rooms are to be used on Sunday for the senior classes of the Sunday school.

THE practice of students preaching before license was severely condemned in the Church of Scotland General Assembly. Prof. Story laid the blame on ministers who bribed the students to break the law and who filled their pulpits to suit their own ends. A committee was appointed to consider the whole subject of students' preaching.

PROF. CHRISTIE of Aberdeen died lately in his 65th year. Ordained to Kildrummy parish in 1849 he was translated to Kilrenny, Fifeshire, in 1872; and on the appointment of the late Dr. Pirie to the principalship of Aberdeen university he was selected by the Crown to fill the chair of divinity and Church history rendered vacant by the change.