

DIFFICULTIES IN AFRICA.

DIFFICULTIES IN CENTRAL AFRICA.—The London Missionary Society, we are sorry to report, is perplexed, though not in despair, respecting its mission to the region about Lake Tanganyika, in the heart of the African continent. This is a most important centre of missionary work. The hope is that the agents of the American Board of missions, and of the London Missionary Society, and of the Baptist Society on the Congo will ultimately join hands, advancing ever nearer to each other, till all Central Africa shall be flooded with the light of the Gospel, and what is the dark continent shall become a Christian land. The particular mission on the above lake was begun in 1876. In these brief five years there has been spent the sum of £22,000; three brethren have withdrawn through ill health, and three missionaries have died at their post. We are not surprised that, under such circumstances, the directors have anxiously considered whether they should not abandon for the present the perilous and difficult work. We learn that at the half-yearly meeting of the directors, on October 19, "the decision of the board was unanimously and decidedly in favor of going on with the work more earnestly and more thoroughly than ever." Our readers will sympathise with and pray for the brave men who risk life in the resolve to evangelize the regions around Tanganyika, and we hope soon to hear that healthy sites have been obtained for mission stations, and that they are manned by men worthy of the society, which has had Drs. Moffatt and Livingstone among its missionaries to Africa.—*The Freeman*.

Sabbath Rest.

I wish all tired people did but know the infinite rest there is in fencing off the six days from the seventh, in anchoring the business ships of your daily life as the Saturday draws to its close, leaving them to ride peacefully upon the flow or ebb until Monday morning comes again, O, the delight, the lull of feeling: "No need to settle the question, no need to think of this piece of work, for a whole long, sweet thirty-six hours." Why do you take Sunday papers, to keep your nerves astir with business on the Lord's own day of rest? Why do you add up and consult and consider in the pauses of the sermon, or make opportunity for a business-whisper in the porch, and on the

way home? Why do you let the perplexities of servants, of means, of plans ruffle your spirits on the one great day of freedom? Do you not know that even a debtor may walk abroad on Sunday with no fear of person, and house-doors may stand open and no sheriff can enter? Shall it be worse with your mind than with your body?

"Sleep, sleep to-day, tormenting cares,
Of earth and folly born."

It is the high court of the Prince of peace.—*Tired Church Members*.

Is it So?

We heard recently a wise and experienced pastor say that in his judgment the great evil in our churches, the explanation of the spiritual dearth over which we mourn, is the decline of household piety. The family altar is neglected, no blessing is asked upon food, the religious education of the children is relegated to other than parental hands—this is no unfair characterization of many nominally Christian families. We fear that this portraiture is a true one. But without troubling ourselves to decide whether it is true or not as concerns the community in general, we certainly can say how it is as regards our own family. "Is mine a pious household?" Each one can ask himself that question. If we must sadly confess that it is not, then let us see to it at once that the right change be made. If we can honestly say that it is, nevertheless there is much that may be done to increase its holiness. O, that a vastly increased number of homes among us were households of piety! But the matter under God, lies in the hands of the individual members of these families.—*Illus. Chris. Weekly*.

The Tree Known by its Fruits.

The *York Evening Post* says:—"A careful survey of the murders, suicides, and other great felonies committed in the chief cities of the United States during the last ten years, shows that a heavy fraction of the perpetrators were *atheists and free thinkers*. These unhappy persons, persuaded that life is the be-all and end-all here, imagine that they can jump the life to come. A collection of letters and other papers often left by criminals, when anticipating death, shows a fearful number of instances, some of which many readers will recall, of absolute disbelief in the existence of God, or in penalties for sins committed in this life to be exacted in a future one."