

VIII.—PROGRESS OF MISSIONS: MONTHLY BULLETIN.

Africa.—The railroads of Africa are becoming quite a factor in its civilization and development. The Portuguese are now constructing a railroad in the province of Angola, from Loanda to Ambacca, a distance of 250 miles. The work is progressing rapidly. Several locomotives and cars have already arrived. A railroad is also planned to go around the Congo Falls, on the south side, some distance from the river, where the ravines and mountain gorges are not so difficult of passing as near the river.

—It is announced in England that the London Missionary Society has come to the conclusion that more elasticity is required in the appointment of missionaries, and have decided to send out bands of celibate missionaries to select centers, to work for a term of years at the lowest salary consistent with health, under the guidance of some experienced head.

—Missionaries for Central Africa. The departure of Mr. T. H. Morris, Dr. Fisher and others, to join Mr. F. S. Arnot's mission in Central Africa, has been awaited with lively interest by many churches and congregations throughout the country. Now the departure is a historical fact. Last week a telegram was received from Mr. Arnot, who was still at Benguela, stating that transport inland was difficult. Thereupon Mr. and Mrs. Morris determined to leave their children in England for the present. The last days of the devoted band in this country were happily spent, many friends commending each and all to the God of all grace and power. On Thursday last week a large farewell meeting was held in the Folkestone Road Gospel Hall, Walthamstow, and it was felt by many to be a very blessed season.

The party left the London Docks for Lisbon on Saturday in the steamship *Gibraltar*. In addition to Mr. and Mrs. Morris and Dr. Fisher, there were: Messrs. Gaul, Thompson and Johnson, and Misses Davies and Gilchrist. An inspiring meeting was held just before the ship left, twenty or thirty friends being present. Among the melodies that were sung was "Go ye into all the World," with its stirring and cheering refrain, "All Power is Given unto Me." Afterward a prayer-meeting was held on the green near the docks, the loved ones who had gone forth being earnestly committed to the loving care of the Lord of the harvest. On the same ship were three American workers, also bound for spheres in the interior of Africa—Mr. Cotton and his wife, the latter a Doctor of Medicine, and Mr. Leo. —*The Christian (England).*

—Central Africa. The Universities' Mission report four mission fields (no stations having as yet been abandoned through the

present unsettled state of affairs) and a staff of 102 workers. Of these 36 are natives, and 19 are English ladies.

The Church Missionary Society has some seven workers in the interior, but the German operations and native quarrels surround their work with both difficulty and danger. At Mombasa on the last Sunday of 1888 the communion was observed by 140 communicants, all but eight being natives. The work here has been going on for thirteen years, and a Divinity class has been started.

—The British East Africa Company is about to start a railroad which is expected ultimately to connect Victoria Nyanza with the sea. The company has sent two caravans of a thousand people into the interior for purposes of exploration. If the church were half as enterprising as commerce, the world would soon be converted to Christ.

—At Mrija (a station of the French Protestant Mission among the South African Basutos), 75 new converts were received into the church on the 30th December last. An assembly of 1,500 natives witnessed their baptism, and 35 persons previously careless asked to be placed under special instruction.

—Bechuanaland postal runners carry the mails at the rate of 130 miles a day, each runner covering fifteen miles. The route between Tangier and Fez, in Morocco, is 150 miles of mountainous crooked roads, bridgeless and ferryless rivers. The Arab carriers run, walk, and swim this distance in three and a half days.

—Effect of the Blockade. We learn from letters of African missionaries in the English papers that the international blockade on the east coast of Africa has prevented the export of slaves, but it has not diminished the slave traffic in the interior. Mr. Robson, of the Church Missionary Society, writes from Mombasa, near the coast, north of Zanzibar:

"If the blockade is preventing the transportation of slaves in boats it has not arrested the trade. The crimes committed by the Arabs in the interior are worse than ever. No longer able to export the negroes, they drag them far north by land, and scarcely one in ten slaves reaches his destination. Many of the slave bands that are passing north through this country come from the Makua district east of Lake Nyassa. By the time they reach this region they have traveled several hundred miles."

Belgium.—An interesting account is given in *The Sunday-School Times*, by one of its correspondents, of the Evangelical Missionary Church of Belgium, which was fully organized in 1849, its first small society having been