

missionary record for the many children of the church. Along with this juvenile publication, Mr. Croil has sent the Calwer Missionsblatt containing a good article on the Apostolic Missionary Method, and an account, with twenty-seven portraits, of the Bremen Mission Conference. The Evangelische Heidenbote of Basle is full of Africa, but adds an excellent coloured map of the stations held by the Basle Missionary Society in the East Indies. The French publication of the same society is entitled Le Missionnaire, and deals largely with the Cameroons and the Gold Coast. These mission papers are in themselves necessarily rather meagre, but provide material for the larger missionary reviews for which this continent is famous. It is well occasionally to see how our German and Swiss brethren are viewing the field which is the world. There is an attractiveness about their papers, their print and illustrations, which we shall doubtless soon have in our own Record when the church recognizes its value and the balance at the banker's is heavier than at present. One would like, and certainly its managing editor would like, to see the Record a thing of beauty as well as a vehicle of truth.

December's Contemporary has an article upon Ancient Arabia by that universal genius Dr. Sayce. Palgrave and other travellers have opened up the so-called desert, showing it to be in many places fertile, populous and prosperous, and to contain all kinds of antiquities, even including the Stonehenges of Kasseem as perfect as that of Wiltshire. Dr. Sayce deals chiefly with the Himyaritic and kindred inscriptions long antedating the Arab period, but the true history of which is very largely *in nubibus*. The descendants of the Himyarites or Homeritæ are to be looked for in Abyssinia and in Africa generally, but especially in the neighbourhood of Houssa and Kashna. The Descriptio Africae of Leo Africanus furnishes materials for tracing this ancient people even to the northern Berber area. One of the ancient Arabian forms of writing is the Lihhyanian, and Dr. Sayce says that Professor Müller, (D.H.) found an inscription of that character on a Babylonian cylinder of about 1000 B.C. This is interesting, tantalizing, and inconclusive. If this one of the many professorial Müllers has found an ancient Arabian inscription as old as Solomon, let him read it and tell us what it says. Otherwise he may as well startle us with the original text of the Book of Enoch or the Gospel of Eve. Major Condor writes to the Times, taking new courage from the appearance of the Tell el Amarna bastard Hittite tablet, and professing to find therein confirmation of the remarkable readings he furnished some time ago of the Hamathite records. In real knowledge there should be no vagueness. The very point which separates what we know from what we don't know, whether it be in a single inscription or in the whole field of knowledge, should be sharply defined. Of course this statement cannot apply to articles of faith transcending human reason, and that refuse to give