

lers, at work in Cairo with its 400,000 souls and its 400 Mosques. It was shortly after this the Americans entered on their work. Beginning in lower Egypt these missionaries have pushed their way up the Nile, so that now in the mud villages of upper Egypt, as a recent traveller remarks, one meets with turbaned elders and deacons and children well grounded in the Holy Scripture. In the town of Osioot, which is the commercial capital of Upper Egypt, built where the Nile valley attains its greatest breadth,—if we except the magnificent plain of Thebes,—these Protestant Missionaries have established a strong congregation, to which was added last year new members to the extent of one hundred and fifty. Upward and onward has the noble work been urged until there is now, we understand, a Protestant Mission at Asswan, a village built where the navigation of the Nile is impeded, though not broken, by the granite rocks of Syene, from which were quarried those statues and obelisks familiar to visitors to the British Museum and the squares of Rome.

At Asswan the Nile issues out of the mountains of Nubia. There the broad, lazy flow of the ancient river is broken by those hills running athwart its course that for hundreds of miles had guarded its flanks. And here, where new difficulties meet the navigator of the river, new dangers meet the Missionary of the Cross. At Asswan the Missionary is on the threshold of that dangerous ground where the slave trade carries on its diabolical mission. Here the Nile is no longer the Nile of Egypt. The granite and sandstone hills encroach upon the river, and so closely hug it that there is no room for cultivation save in patches, and these elevated above the stream so far that the water for irrigation has to be raised by water-wheels worked by oxen. There the traveller is beyond the reach of history, for there is no name or record of these massive temples that line the course of the river like castles on the Rhine.

Here, especially as he ascends and leaves the confines of Nubia, the traveller is beyond the protection of law and must defend himself as best he may from lawless robbers. But the Saviour, to whom the Father has given power over all flesh, and who makes the overturnings of war, the upbuildings of commerce, the discoveries of science, and the explorations of travellers subservient to his purpose ultimately to subdue the earth, seems at length to have begun the removal of this barrier to the progress of His Gospel. According to recent reports of Sir Samuel Baker, it would seem that he has so far succeeded in his mission as to offer a fair prospect, not simply of tracing the Nile and its immense reservoirs a stage further back, but of subduing, not Nubia which already belongs to Egypt, but the higher countries, down to the equator, annexing them to what may now be called the crown of Egypt. In this way and under the protection of the Khedive of Egypt, who is now freed from the last links of his vassalage to Constantinople, the Christian Missions that from Alexandria have ascended to Cairo, from Cairo to Osioot, from Osioot to Thebes, and from Thebes to Asswan, will continue their course under the Tropics until the Equator is reached, and that magnificent country described by Livingstone and other travellers as excelled by none on the face of the earth will become a Protestant mission field in the heart of Africa, whence the Gospel may flow out, as the waters of its rivers, in all directions over the benighted continent.

Already the Church of Rome, ever on the alert, has sent over that highway the pioneers of the army with which Protestant Missionaries must yet do battle in the heart of Africa as in the heart of London and Rome. The annuals of the propagation of the faith published in January announces the departure of sixty-four missionaries for Australia, Africa, South America, the United States, and the British Pro-