

the men who had given him the office had not dreamed of."

AFRICA.

—A writer from Africa, alluding to the African's fondness for music, says: "Nothing is done here without a song. Your boatman sings all day long, keeping time with his paddles, the woman beating rice beats in time to her voice; your carriers sing to their tread, and the farmer to his hoe. Joy, grief, pain—all are shown in spontaneous song. Their songs are always extempore, and adapted to present circumstances. The ordinary method is for one person to sing a bar and the whole company to join in a responsive chorus, consisting generally of a single syllable, suited in sound and meaning to the sentiment. Current events are described often with great accuracy, and they frequently ridicule the manners of some king or praise the virtue of another, acting out the character to perfection."

—*North Africa* says, with reference to the serious epidemic of cholera prevailing in Egypt: "Thanks to the energy of the sanitary officials, Alexandria and Cairo are now comparatively free; but in the country towns and villages more than 6000 persons died in three weeks."

—The Basel Mission on the Gold Coast has lost no less than 13 of its missionaries—10 men and 3 women—during the past year.

—In consequence of the rapidly increasing traffic in spirits in the Yoruba country, a petition on the subject has been drawn up and signed by over 8000 natives of Abeokuta, while another similar petition bears 3800 more signatures from Lagos and the neighborhood.

—A fearful epidemic among cattle is sweeping over tropical Africa. It was first discovered several years ago by the French explorer, Mantell, who wrote from Kano, in the Sudan, that not one head of cattle in a thousand had escaped for 500 miles along his route. Soon

came the news of the outbreak of the plague in the lake region and on the plateau of the great Massi tribe, and among the herds of Somaliland further north; and for the past few months the scourge has been advancing toward the borders of South Africa. The ravages have now extended from the upper Niger to the Indian Ocean, and from the desert of Sahara on the north to Matabeleland on the south. The late revolt of the Matabeles is attributed in part to the loss of their cattle, on which they depended for subsistence.

—Bangala is the finest station of the Kongo State on the Upper River. All the buildings, even those reserved for the blacks, are made of brick. They have a wide veranda and are separated by flower gardens, where even the newly imported lilac greets the eye of the European traveler. The plantations include 30 hectares of rice fields, and over 30,000 coffee and cocoa trees. The military and missionary colony has already 8 brick houses and 3 brick kilns, each of which contained over 15,000 bricks of superior quality. The population, number 600, all from the Ubanghi and Welle River. Some can read and write.

—The late Father De Deken gives the following account of the arrival at Leopoldville of 100 pupils from the Bangala colony: "Lieutenant Freitag brings me about 100 young men formed as our colony of Nouvelle-Anvers (New Antwerp), and who are going to Boma, there to complete their military and religious education. As they are passed in review by the State Inspector they sing 'Brabantseconde' with enthusiasm; their obedience is punctual, their piety touching. More than one European felt the tears come to his eyes when they sang their hymns and recited their prayers with uplifted arms."—*Ibid.*

—The German imports into the Transvaal have steadily increased since 1831. In 1831 and 1832 they amounted to 1,300,000 marks; in 1833, to 3,200,000 marks; in 1834, to nearly 6,000,000