

build her at Vivi, to carry missionaries and mission goods from ship's side at Banana 100 miles up the river to Vivi.

"In connection with this we will build a steel launch, to be propelled by oars and sails, to carry up river cargoes through the middle passage of Congo, 88 miles, from Isangila to Manyanga. When this is developed, then we shall require a small steamer for the Kassai and the Sankura. We needed such a boat in 1886, when we had a force waiting at Stanley Pool, who would have met Dr. Summers, who entered by the Angola route, at Luluaburg, but we could not on any of the five little steamers on the Upper Congo, about the time of his arrival, get a passage for one missionary. Now there are a dozen little steamers on those waters, and we can get passage to take up a successor to dear Dr. Summers and others also, to keep our promise to the Bashalange people and other nations beyond, till we can complete arrangements below, as aforesaid, for planting of missions in those far interior countries on a broad scale. WM. TAYLOR."

France.—Rev. J. C. Bracq says: "The public schools of France have never before approached their present state of thoroughness and efficiency. It is to the credit of the Republic that she has made greater efforts in that direction than in any other. She has increased her war budget only two-thirds, while that of popular education has risen from 24 millions of francs to 130 millions. The teachers have better preparation in the Normal schools, larger salaries, better houses to live in, while their school buildings form a pleasant contrast with those of the past. They have also large associations for mutual improvement and for the defence of their interests that could not have existed under former governments. Their social position is equal to that of teachers in the United States. While they are much respected in cities, in rural dis-

tricts they come after, but often associate with the mayor, the doctor and the priest. The State considers them to be of such importance that it frees them from military service, pays their salary, and at the age of sixty grants them pensions. The number has become so large that some have asked if the work of the Normal schools should not be suspended. At this time, when the enemies of the Republic try to underrate the services she has rendered to France, I feel it a duty to vindicate the good work she has done. Her efforts to raise popular education have not only been great, but very successful."

India.—A Hindu Lady Reformer. —During Bishop Thoburn's recent visit to Bombay he called on the Pandita Ramabai at her own home. This lady's name is almost a household word in England and America; her devotion to the women of her country is well known. He thus describes his visit: "I found her busy, but not careworn, in the midst of her various projects for elevating her race, and especially those of her own sex. One of her cardinal ideas is that the status of Indian women must be raised to the level of true womanhood. Her little daughter was in the room, and I asked her name. 'I call her Manoram,' she replied. 'The birth of a daughter is considered a great calamity in India, and so I named her "Heart's-delight" as a protest against the bad notion.' The Pandita is giving special attention to temperance reform, and I was only too glad to promise her whatever assistance I might be able to render her in her good work. She is beginning to realize that her work will encounter difficulties in its progress, but thus far she shows no sign of discouragement. Her chief enterprise, that of founding a home for Indian widows, has not yet passed beyond the experimental stage, but she seems satisfied with the success thus far achieved."—*The Harvest Field*.