

VIII.—PROGRESS OF MISSIONS: MONTHLY BULLETIN.

Africa.—Arabs in East Central Africa. Tidings from a mission of the Free Church of Scotland in Nyassaland indicate that though the Arabs are by no means overcome, their power is decreasing. These Arabs are cruel and treacherous; they shoot down the natives without any compunctions; villages have been destroyed and parents and children killed; but at the latter part of April matters were quiet. No news has been received from missionaries on Lake Tanganyika, the road between that lake and Nyassa having been closed by the Arabs. A letter from Dr. Kerr Cross at Karonga, April 20, gives much credit to Captain Lugard, who has managed his 150 poorly armed natives that they had prevented the Arabs from advancing, and had saved many natives from massacre. Dr. Cross had been driven from his home in the highlands, but at Karonga they were holding two services on the Sabbath, at one of which they had 600 people present.

—**Congo Mission.** Mr. Richards, of the American Baptist Missionary Union, reports that the work at Banza Manteke, the place where so many converts have been baptized, is still prospering. The young church has been greatly tried by persecution as well as by sickness and death. Not less than twenty of those baptized have died, and the fatality has been a great stumbling-block to the heathen, who have asserted that the sickness was sent by their gods because they have been neglected. This has prevented many from accepting the Christian faith. The heathen are bitterly opposed, and would take the lives of the Christians if they could. Recently 17 were baptized, and others are asking for the ordinance, and the knowledge of the truth is spreading far and wide.

—**Mr. F. S. Selous,** the South African traveler, in his recent expedition, visited the French mission on the Zambezi, where he found the families of Messrs. Jeanmairet and Jalla at Sesheke. He says that the mission has passed through the greatest difficulties, and that their situation is far from agreeable. They are shut out from communication with the outward world, the receipt of letters depending entirely upon chance travelers or merchants. The crocodiles devour all their domestic animals. The kindness of the missionaries is having great effect upon the people, but Mr. Selous says that the Barotse valley is in a deplorable condition on account of the periodical inundations of the Zambezi, and the fevers which result therefrom.

—**Stanley** puts the population of Africa at 250,000,000.

—**In the midst of serious dangers,** says the *Presbyterian Messenger*, the missions are

prospering at Nyassa. The Free Church of Scotland has opened a new station at Malindu, on a high plain at the north of the lake. Malindu is surrounded by 17 villages, embosomed in gardens of magnificent bananas.

—**Along the valley of the Nile** from Alexandria to the first cataract are 70 mission stations and 70 Sabbath-schools, numbering 4,017 scholars, while the day and boarding-schools have over 5,200 pupils. There has been an increasing demand for Bibles, 6,651 having been sold the last year, with 8,933 volumes of religious literature and 17,179 educational books.

—**The Congo Railway.** The Belgian Chambers have voted a subscription of ten million francs toward the cost of the Congo railway. This does not mean that Belgium and the Congo Free State are to come into any political relations, but the subscription is made in the interests of Belgian commerce. A Zanzibar merchant has contracted for the transport along the Congo of the material for the construction of the railway.

—**A new station** on the upper Congo River has been opened by the American Baptist Mission. It is 170 miles above Stanley Pool. Lieutenant Taunt, U. S. commercial agent on the Congo, says this is the only mission on the river which has been successful.

—**A navigable channel** has been discovered in the delta of the Zambezi River, Southeast Africa, by which vessels can enter the main river. This will greatly facilitate the advance of missions and civilization in that region.

China.—One of the missionaries of the China Inland Mission, a Scotch gentleman worth a million, is living in China on twenty-five cents a week, using all his fortune in the work.

—**In Pang-Chuang,** a missionary from North America tells the story of a mission there, almost entirely depending on the work of a single woman. She seemed to have inspired the women, for some of them are said to sit up half the night working, in order to raise sufficient funds to build a chapel. They have already collected \$15.

—**American Citizens.** Our minister in China officially reports that there are in China 1,022 American citizens resident within the empire, of whom 506 are entered as missionaries, though the 400 resident in Shanghai are not classified as to their occupation. The extension of the Tientsin and Tonsan railroad to Tung-cho has received the imperial sanction, and it is expected that notwithstanding all opposition to its construction work will be immediately begun. The journey from Tientsin to Peking can then be accomplished by rail in three hours, instead of as many days, as now.

—**Work among the Hakkas** in Southern China is very encouraging. Says a missionary: "The Hakkas will be evangelized sooner than