

## VI.—PROGRESS AND RESULTS OF MISSIONS: MONTHLY BULLETIN.

**Presbyterian Alliance.**—The fourth General Council of the Presbyterian Alliance unanimously adopted the following propositions as embodying the general principle of the organic union and independence of the churches in the mission field, and resolved to leave it to the allied churches to carry out the principle on these lines in the management of their various missions:

1. It is in the highest degree desirable that mission churches should be encouraged to become independent of the home churches, i. e., self-supporting and self-governing, self-government naturally following upon self-support.

2. It is desirable that churches organized under Presbyterian orders, and holding the Reformed faith, should be placed under a Presbytery within territorial boundaries suitable for effective government; and that such Presbytery, wherever constituted, should, as far as practicable, include all the Presbyterian churches within the bounds by whatever branches of the European and American churches originated.

3. In the incipient stages of the native Church, it is most desirable that the foreign missionaries should be associated with the Presbytery, either as advisers only or as assessor members with votes.

4. It is undesirable that Presbyteries of native churches should be represented in Supreme Courts at home, the development and full organization of the independent native churches being what is to be arrived at, whether these are founded by a single foreign church, or by two or more such churches.

—Rev. Mr. Wigram says that the great lesson taught him by his journey around the world is the utter inadequacy of the missionary force to avail itself of the inviting openings in all directions. "Terribly undermanned" is his description of almost every mission district in Ceylon, India, China and Japan.—*Spirit of Missions*.

**Africa.**—Territorial Acquisitions. After what *The London Times* calls the scramble for Africa, which has been going on for years and is now practically ended, it is said that only about four and one-half millions of the eleven millions of square miles in Africa remain unattached to some European power. Of these unattached portions more than half lie within the desert of Sahara. France has about 700,000 square miles; Germany 740,000 square miles, to which should

be added, if various disputed claims were admitted, another 200,000. England's possessions and "sphere of influence," not including Egypt, are set down at about 1,900,000 square miles. British trade with Africa is estimated to be worth about \$125,000,000 annually, while that of France is about \$100,000,000. The commerce of Germany with the Great Continent is as yet insignificant. The total value of exports and imports of Africa is estimated at \$375,000,000 annually. An enormous sum truly. What a field for commercial enterprise the Great Continent is! And what a field for missionary enterprise!—*Miss. Herald*.

—It is officially announced that the forces of the Congo Free State have re-captured the Stanley Falls station. It is two years since this station on the Congo fell into the hands of the Arabs. It is an important point, 1,400 miles from the mouth of the river and 350 above Stanley Pool. Stanley established it in 1883 on an island in the river just below the falls. In 1886 fifty black soldiers under European officers guarded it; a female slave took refuge in the station. Her owner, an Arab chief, demanded her surrender. The refusal to comply led to a three days' battle, and the Congo soldiers had to retreat because they had exhausted their ammunition. Since then the Arabs have held it until now and resumed their slave raids from it as a base.

—Advices from Stanley Falls state that Professor Jamieson, who was engaged in organizing an expedition for the relief of Stanley, died of African fever at Bangalas, on the Congo, August 17th. The organization of another relief expedition is now regarded as hopeless. Officials of the Congo Free State believe that Professor Jamieson, having become convinced that, owing to the treachery of Tippoo Tib, there was no chance to make further arrangements for his expedition, was returning when he was stricken down with the fever. A letter from an official of the Congo State, dated July 26th, reports a pitiable state of affairs at Aruwimi.

—In the schools of the Scottish Free Church Mission, at Bandawe, Lake Nyassa, Africa, no fewer than 1,170 pupils were in attendance the day before they were closed for vacation. Of these one-third were girls. Thirty-eight native teachers are at work in the schools. The Arabs have cut to pieces a friendly tribe at the north end of the lake, and attacked the mission storehouse, but were beaten back. The slave thieves dared to imprison and maltreat the British consul and haul down the British flag.

—Of 140 persons who have gone out in con-