

**"The Poor have the Gospel Preached to Them."**

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The highest glory of modern missions is that unto the poor the Gospel is preached. Its greatest triumphs are among the poor—the common people. It should be so; for

1. It is in accord with the spirit and example of Christ. He gave to the messengers of John as proofs of His messiahship, "The dead are raised, and unto the poor the Gospel is preached."

2. They are the chief part of the human race. The common people in all heathen lands may justly be called the poor

3. They are the most accessible. The common people heard Him gladly. The missionary churches in all lands have very few converts among the rich and prosperous.

4. They constitute the brightest examples of the transforming power of the Gospel. Out of these poor, degraded, ignorant people come forth men and women of saintly character, of superior mental endowments, pure in life, unselfish, consecrated to the service of the Lord, often not counting their lives dear unto them. This is a transformation which the world is compelled to take knowledge of.

5. They are furnishing the agents for the world's conversion. In God's good time they will rise into all the places of power, for "the people shall be all righteous," and the whole world shall have one Lord, one faith, and one baptism in the Spirit.

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**Signs of the Times in South Africa.**

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The most encouraging sign of the times, viewed in relation to the world's evangelization, is, in my opinion, the fact that nearly all parts of it are open and ready to receive the Gospel. Never

did the Macedonian cry sound so loudly as at the present moment.

"O'er the desert's burning sands,  
O'er the ocean's stormy wave,  
Voices cry from distant lands,  
Come to help us! Come to save!"

And veteran toilers in the foreign field, as they fall, one after another, echo with emphasis the words of Father Gulick, of the Sandwich Islands, uttered just before his death: "The nearer I get to eternity the more grand and momentous does the cause of missions appear. In comparison with this, how insignificant the pursuit of earthly pleasures, riches, or honor!"

Naturally my own vision turns particularly to Southeastern Africa, where I have spent most of my life, and where the outlook is full of encouragement. I thank God that the British South Africa Company, dominates so large a territory populated by tribes which for centuries have been sunk in superstition and addicted to barbarous customs. Of the Bantu race, numbering, it is supposed, about one fourth the population of Africa, the most interesting are those speaking the Zulu dialect, all of whom are accessible, if we except the Amazimu, on Lake Tanganyika, to missionary operations. God in His providence has sent the Anglo-Saxon race to the southern part of the continent to prepare the way for the dissemination of His truth. Laborers of the A. B. C. F. M. have been busy, during the past fifty years, in stocking the divine arsenal with weapons to use in the "holy war" that is to be waged in conquering for Christ, Africans widely extended, but with a common kinship, ethnologically and linguistically considered. The Bible, religious tracts, and elementary school books in the Zulu language are available.

The Zulu Mission has made a new departure, the result of which will be contemplated with interest. I refer to the sending of some of its members to initiate work in the northern part of Gazaland, with the promise of protection from its chief, Gungunyana. We have reason to believe that Natal natives,