

land, simply because a few German trading posts had been built at these points. This was the signal for a general partition of Africa, and by 1886 nearly the whole continent had come under the recognized sway of one or the other of the European powers. The Congo Free State was brought into being in 1886 by an agreement of the powers, her territory to be inviolate and all nations to trade there on an equal footing. To secure these ends the King of the Belgians was appointed administrator, and how grossly he used his position to further his own ends is a matter of history. Only when the situation became unbearable did Great Britain and the United States interfere, and by treaty the Congo Free State is no longer the personal domain of the Belgian King to be exploited for his advantage, but is under the control of the Belgian parliament, and a better day has dawned for the natives of the Congo region. Africa is said to contain some 300,000,000 of people, but of course there is no certainty as to that, but its peoples speak some 453 languages and 158 dialects. An interesting fact in this connection is the statement by an early C. M. S. missionary that in Freetown, Sierra Leone, no less than 98 languages could be heard on the streets. This arose from the fact that captured slavers were taken to Freetown and the miserable captives let loose, hence its name of Freetown. Stanley states that in spite of there being some 611 different languages there are only three distinct peoples, described as negro, Bantu and Negroid.

The negroes, with black face, protruding chin and retreating forehead, are found principally on the west coast; the extremities of the continent and the great central forests. The Bantus are a brown skinned people with a straight face, but having the characteristic kinky African hair. He thinks they came originally from Asia across the Red Sea and drove the negroes before them. They are found scattered all over Africa from the Soudan to the cape and from east to west coasts. This incursion explains why so many languages are spoken on the west coast, there being a new language almost every thirty to forty miles from north to south, and extending some hundred to a hundred and fifty miles into the interior. The great characteristic of the Bantu languages is the prefix, making it easy to recognize them, no matter in what part of the continent they may be found. The Negroids are a mixture of Bantu, with Moorish or Arab stock. They are usually very tall, with a dis-