

house of John Huss himself with its grounds has been secured by the Evangelical Continental Society, and will be used as a centre of Gospel testimony. As thousands flock from year to year to see the house where that great Reformer was born, it is hoped that it will prove a coign of vantage from which the Gospel may sound forth to all Bohemia.

Central Africa.—Mr. William Lucas, of Melbourne, Australia, in speaking of Central Africa from the missionary point of view, strongly holds as the result of his own observation that any further accessions to the number of missionaries should mean the opening up of untouched areas. Already the opinion widely prevails that there are "more than sufficient missionaries in the Blantyre province without clashing with each other's operations, unless very defined areas are decided on." Much land remains to be possessed, and the call is for large-hearted, devoted men and women who will work in Africa on African lines; and by African lines is meant for one thing those lines which disturb as little as possible tribal relations. A colonization scheme Mr. Lucas evidently thinks more feasible in fancy than in fact.

The Late Bishop J. S. Hill and Mrs. Hill.—The mystery attaching to God's way has been afresh vividly shown in the sudden removal of Bishop and Mrs. Hill, almost coincident with their arrival at their African home. High hopes centred in their outgoing, and the prospects of the Niger Mission never looked so bright before; but the angel reaper has intercepted these destined workers and cut down the hopes that had entwined themselves around their mission. The grief felt is, we believe, more deep and general than is even the expression or manifestation of it. It was said to Mary, "Yea, a sword shall pierce thine own heart also." Even so must their experience be who travail in birth for the world's redemption.

Zenana Work.—Speaking of the women of India, Dr. R. N. Cust says: "They are little better than the sheep which bleat in the fields and the birds which sing on the trees; they have no future to look forward to, no idea of repentance for the past, no hopes of another world, except of being with their husbands, if husbands they have had, and passing out of existence, if they have had none."

In view of this sombre description, zenana work is like a jewel set on a dark ground. Miss Lyon reports that in Patna City there are over sixty women in the zenanas who are reading the Testament. Others record like progress, and in some cases the living seed has germinated. Mrs. Pollen, of Bulandshuhr, writes: "Again and again in the zenanas have I seen the eyes of the woe and sad fill with tears when I pressed home to them the message of God's love; often and often in one form or another has the assurance been given from heathen lips that the vain, so-called prayer, 'Ram-ram, Ram-ram,' would be given up, and that their prayer would be raised to Him who hears and answers, for a heart with which to know and love Him." Their sincerity is shown in their desire to learn to read, which for them is slow and hard work. "But it is a great pleasure when, here and there, we find a woman already able to read Urdu or Hindi; then from the first day one can put into their hands the books which, with God's blessing, may lead into the way of life." Mrs. Pollen also speaks of the enlarging scope of the work. "Since March, 1892, over one hundred houses have been opened to us, and the work is now far beyond what we can meet and is still increasing."

THE KINGDOM.

—It will be a favor very highly esteemed if secretaries of all missionary societies will send early copies of annual reports to the editor of this department of General Missionary Intelligence.