

Before New Year's Day I gave away seventeen quilts, and on New Year's Day I gave to the parents of our children, mothers and grandmothers, each a quilt, fourteen in all. Since then I have given about six or eight skirts, and coats or jackets were given to the mothers of our children, and also to old and needy ones. Overcoats, pants and shirts were given to the men, while dresses, hoods, little blankets, stockings, etc., are given to the babies and small children. This will give you a little idea how the clothes are given out. Old "Tobacco Juice" is still living—he was over to see us a few days ago, and to get his usual handful of tea. "Pointed Cap" has not come around much this winter; he has a little granddaughter which I wanted to get into the school, and when he asked for anything I answered by asking for the little girl. This generally made him angry and he would give us a lecture as to our duty, seeing that we had "the Book" and could read it. How many there are who can do the same! However I am told that he is going to send the girl when his own time comes.

FOR JULY MEETINGS.

The Work of the American Board in Africa.

The last decade has seen no greater changes than those which have been wrought in Darkest Africa. The recent disturbances have but intensified the interest in that vast continent. Each of the European nations, excepting Russia, has a "sphere of influence" there, so that to-day there is scarcely a mile of territory outside the Mohammedan regions of the north that is not claimed and occupied by the Powers of Europe.

The American Board has three centres of influence: the Zulu Mission, in Natal, established sixty-one years ago; the West Central Mission, begun in 1880; and the East Central Mission, established on the coast in 1883, and on its present site in the heights of the interior in 1893.

The statistics of the Zulu Mission, its 20 churches, with their 1,800 communicants; the 55 schools and 2,600 pupils; the native agency numbering 250, give but meagerly the results of work in that region. The Christian homes scattered up and down the whole colony of Natal; the family life, no longer mere animal existence, but a circle where love reigns and Christ is the "unseen Guest"; the changed faces, marking the inward transformation; the gradual undermining of degrading social customs; the development of *wants*, which force the indolent native to wholesome exertion; the elevation of woman, no longer a drudge, a slave, a piece of property to be bought and sold, but an individual, a treasure, a "crown to her husband"; the awakening of a thirst for knowledge, which packs 130 girls into buildings planned for 60, which fills the Girls' School at Umzumbi so full that the doors must be closed against other applicants, for lack of funds; the arousing of a feeling of dissatisfaction with heathen homes and surroundings, which compels the opening of a home for scores of runaway girls who flee for succour to the missionaries—these are some of the signs that the leaven of the gospel is working in the hearts of the people of Natal and will work until the whole lump is leavened.

Special mention should be made of the work recently begun at Johannesburg, in the Transvaal—a work forced upon the Mission by the great