

ZULU WOMEN'S WEEKLY PRAYER MEETING.

BY MISS LAURA M. M'ELLEN.

IT was laid upon the heart of a Zulu woman in the Umtwalume Church to pray. She rose before dawn and went into the house of worship, there pouring out her heart in prayer, first that she might be cleansed and purified, then for a spiritual awakening among her people. She asked one of her neighbours, a Christian woman, to join her in the evening; they together spent that whole night in prayer; other nights followed, also early morning hours given to prayer in the church. They petitioned for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon themselves, then prayed for individuals, some of the other women; these soon joined them till a goodly number of the women of the church were giving the best time of their day to prayer. Then they said, "Let us change the time of our weekly prayer meeting to this hour." The weekly meeting was poorly attended, the women coming late after their day's work, and hurrying home to cook the evening meal.

One morning while at Umtwalume for the purpose of examining schools, I was awakened an hour before dawn by the ringing of the church bell, calling the women from one, two, and three miles away. At the first streaks of dawn I went into the church and joined two women who were praying aloud, but in a low tone. I thought of the promise to the "two or three gathered together in His name." Soon others entered and quietly knelt in prayer. When there was sufficient light to see, a hymn was sung, the leader read a portion of Scripture, giving the helpful thoughts and strength she had received from the passage; another hymn was sung, and the meeting thrown open to those present. Thoughts suggested by the passage read, testimonies, and requests for prayer followed in quick succession. A young woman with tears streaming down her face confessed her sins, and said, "O mothers, you know not what my life has been, and all the sorrow and disgrace that have come through its sin; I throw myself into your arms and beg you to pray for me and help me to overcome." They prayed for her then and there. One thanked God for answering her prayer; in the night she had been burdened for this soul, and came early to pray for her, asking God to direct her to the meeting that morning.

The sun arose and sent its beams of light through the church windows as the women

hastened to their homes with the "joy of the Lord" in their hearts, and renewed strength to meet the temptations and battles of life.—*Life and Light* 306.

A LETTER FROM DR. JOHN G. PATON.

JOHAN G. PATON, the famous missionary to the New Hebrides, tells of the opposition to the Gospel among the cannibal heathen, and the tragic fate of a number of native converts. He writes:

"You will be pleased to learn that among the 50,000 or more cannibal heathen yet in our group, the Lord steadily extends his work by our mission; but the heathen have lately shot a number of our Christian converts, in their opposition to the teaching and results of the Gospel among them. Scarcely a week passes without them shooting some native in revenge for their heathen belief, that some one or more of them have died by some others—generally a sacred man or priest having exercised sorcery or witchcraft upon them, of which they live always in a state of dreadful fear. This makes the work of the missionary among them very trying and often dangerous. But, by the Holy Spirit's power and the teaching of our dear Lord Jesus in the Bible by our missionaries, we have now over 16,000 avowed worshippers of God trying to love and serve Jesus with wonderful consistency, asking the Divine blessing on their every meal. They have family worship to begin and close every day in their every household, and they all attend church regularly and try to bring others to fear, love, and serve Jesus Christ, even in many cases at the risk of their own lives.

This is a great help and encouragement to us missionaries in our work among them. I have often thought that if all white Christians were as zealous and earnest, according to their education, knowledge, and opportunities, as our native Christians are, what a change for the better we would see in the world! May the time soon come when the greatest joy and highest honor sought by all true Christians will be to live and labor for Jesus, in seeking the conversion of the world to His service and glory."—*The Christian Herald*.

The Lord hath made bare his holy arm in the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God. Isaiah 52: 10.