

## FIELD STUDY FOR AUGUST.

## AFRICA AND JEWISH MISSIONS.

**T**HIS month we again go outside our own especial work. It is well that we should. Certain Missions depend on us for their support, but our sympathy and prayers need not be confined to them.

Egypt and Northern Africa we will not attempt to talk about but will devote our attention to the Southern part of the Continent, the scene of the labors of Stanley and Livingstone.

Africa is still in many senses of the word a dark continent, but it has its bright spots. In some ways Cape Colony would be placed at no disadvantage by being compared to Canada. With half our population she is yet more densely peopled, as her territory is not much larger than our own Quebec. Of this population fully half is British. Her cities and towns in their architecture and the general appliances of civilization equal our own. Let us look back to the first years of the century. The Cape Colony had just been handed over to England by the Dutch. At other places, along both the east and west coast, there were trading stations belonging to the British and other European nations. Sierra Leone is well worth notice, as it was founded by the British for the purpose of putting down the slave trade. The interior of the map was a blank. The only people who braved its terrors were the slave traders. The first great African Missionary was Robert Moffatt. He was sent to Cape Colony by the London Missionary Society in 1716. Here he spent fifty or more years of his life. He worked with great success among the Kaffirs, reducing their language to writing and translating the Bible. The London Missionary Society completes its first century this year, so a word in reference to it would be timely. It is one of the largest English Missionary Societies. It is the oldest but one and is different from most others in being undenominational.

Another of the early Missions was in Sierra Leone. This was the first Methodist Mission in Africa. In 1892, they had 16 native ministers and 6,387 members. The Church Missionary Society (English) also began work here in 1804. The most interesting figure in their work, and perhaps the most successful worker, has been Bishop Crowthers. "the black Bishop of the Niger"—a rescued slave-boy. He was educated in Sierra Leone. While traveling in the interior as a bishop he came to his old home and found his mother, from whom he had been stolen so many years before. These and other workers were on the coast, when Livingstone was sent by the London Missionary Society in 1840. He said: "Send me anywhere, provided only that it be forward." On arriving, he very soon set out for the most distant civilized point. Here he found his wife, the daughter of Dr. Moffatt, plunged into the unknown regions beyond and began his wonderful explorations that only came to an end with his life. He says of himself that he opened the door and it is for others to see that it is not closed. Inspired by the example of Livingstone, Africa has become the

land of the explorer. The most important work has been done by Stanley; first, in thoroughly exploring the Congo, and later, in aiding to place the Congo Free State on a firm foundation. He travelled over the whole country and made treaties with 450 kings and chiefs, converting these hundreds of petty kingdoms into one grand state, founded thus on the goodwill of the people. Order prevails, the liquor-traffic is abolished, slave-trade carefully guarded against, and Missions receive every encouragement. King Leopold, of Belgium, is at its head, and from his private purse he spends large sums for its advancement. It is said that when he lost his son he adopted Africa.

Chief among the missions on the Congo is the industrial mission, conducted personally by Bishop Taylor, of the Methodist Episcopal Church of the United States. This is managed on what is known as the self-supporting plan. The missionaries, a number of them usually going together, are given full equipment for some kind of work, carpentry, milling, etc., and when fairly established in the country are supposed to support themselves. However, when in need they are expected to let the facts be known, but they receive no salary. This mission has 28 stations and 95 missionaries. The *African News*, a bright, illustrated sheet, edited by Bishop Taylor's son, furnishes news of this and other work in Africa.

The last martyrs of Africa were in Uganda. The Church Missionary Society (English) is here at the suggestion of Stanley. The king wished for his people to have the Bible and teachers. Stanley sent a letter to the *Daily Telegraph*, of London, by one of Gordon Pasha's officers. The officer was killed, but the letter was found in his boot, forwarded and published, resulting in the mission to which Hannington and McKay gave their lives.

What are the results? Round all the older missions are Christianized and civilized communities. Everywhere hundreds, sometimes thousands are converted, and each year more and more are going out to tell the story to their own people.

A few years ago a great impetus was given to work among the Jews by the translation of the New Testament into Hebrew. The race has a strong attachment for their sacred tongue, and it is the language of their literary work. Especially on religious subjects, even in conversation, those who understand it, delight to use the Hebrew. In fact there are one or more newspapers in Jerusalem printed in what has usually been considered a dead language. D.

## QUESTIONS FOR AUGUST.

What African Missionaries have written accounts of their own work?

What degree did Dr. Livingstone hold? To what country does he belong? What do you know of his youth?

What was the object of Stanley's first travels in Africa? How many journeys did he make through Africa? At what point did he begin his exploration of Congo?

## DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING TOPICS:

Condition of Africa at the first of the century and now; London Missionary Society; Sierra Leone; Dr. Moffatt; Bishop Crowthers; Dr Livingstone; Congo Free State; Results; Hebrew Testament.