

Mr. and Mrs. Walter, of the American Board, who have been stationed at Benguella for two years, have enjoyed good health all the time.

Little Freddie Walter, aged four years, speaks equally well in English, Portuguese and Umbundu. It is hoped that he will become a missionary.

The three Baulundu children in Mrs. Walter's household are very interesting characters. They all sing hymns in their own language, which Mrs. W. has translated for them, are learning to read and write well; render admirable service in the household and appear bright as any children at home.

In consequence of the war between Bihe and Baulundu our missionaries will scarcely be able to leave the coast for a month.

Mr. Walter's boy Kapila, rises early in the morning, attends to his duty faithfully all day, and in the evening sits down to read his Portuguese testament and have it explained to him by Mrs. Walter. The other day he wrote on his slate: "My heart rejoices now because I am trusting in Christ," and when he showed it his ebony face was all aglow.

The children were delighted with some Christmas cards sent them by friends at home, and after having them explained, they made frames for them out of straw and hung them on the walls of their room.

The following item from the *N. Y. Independent* will be of painful interest, and lead us to follow our missionaries with earnest prayer and sympathy. Of course they are not going recklessly to run into danger. "The new king of Uganda, Central Africa, has inaugurated a reign of terror, taking life and property according to his whim. The missionaries have discovered plots against their lives, and the king has isolated them, commanding all natives to keep away from their premises. The native Christians, who have become a large band, are in constant fear of death, and yet there are inquirers who are anxious to be baptized, and willing to bear persecution. Mr. Mackay wrote, November 16th, that the missionaries had been seriously considering how they might escape from Uganda, but could hardly see any possibility of getting away undiscovered. The latest date of the letters printed in the *Intelligencer* is Dec. 20th. All was then uncertainty."

In his most exciting meetings, Mr. Moody says he is never excited. He can sleep like a top within three minutes of going into a meeting, and can be sound asleep three minutes after leaving it. The great defect, he thinks, of services in England, especially of the services of the Church, is that they alienate the masses by their excessive length and their lack of interest and vitality. They are adjusted to the needs of an age before railways were invented and telegrams had revolutionised the whole method of communication between man and man. "Telegraphic" services are wanted if the busy men of the latter end of the nineteenth century are to attend them. None of his meetings, Mr. Moody said, exceeded one hour in length, and they were always broken up with plenty of singing. Long services are a mistake. Prayers short and to the point, with straightforward addresses from the speaker to the hearts of the listeners, are wanted. *In short, sanctified common sense is the great need of the Church in England as elsewhere.*

The Family Circle.

RECENT EXPLORATION AND SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATION.

The Director of the Geological Survey of Ireland, Professor Hull, F. R. S., delivered the Annual Address of the Victoria (Philosophical) Institute in London, on the 28th of May, on which occasion the Institute's new President, Professor Stokes, President of the Royal Society, took the chair. The report was read by Captain F. Petrie, the honorary secretary, and showed that the Institute's home, colonial, and foreign members were upwards of eleven hundred, including many who joined from a desire to avail themselves of the Institute's privileges. An increasing number of leading scientific men now contributed papers and aided in the work of bringing about a truer appreciation of the result of scientific inquiry, especially in cases where scientific discovery was alleged by the opponents of religious beliefs to be subversive thereof. The author of the Address then gave an account of the work, discoveries, and general results of the recent Geological and Geographical Expedition to Egypt, Arabia, and Western Palestine, of which he had charge. Sketching the course taken by him (which to a considerable extent took the route ascribed to the Israelites), he gave an account of the physical features of the country, evidences of old sea margins 200 feet above the present sea margins, and showed that at one time an arm of the Mediterranean had occupied the valley of the Nile as far as the First Cataract, at which time Africa was an island (an opinion also arrived at by another of the Institute's members, Sir W. Dawson), and that, at the time of the Exodus, the Red Sea ran up into the Bitter Lakes, and must have formed a barrier to the traveller's progress at that period. He then alluded to the great changes of elevation in the land eastward of these lakes, mentioning that the waters of the Jordan valley once stood 1,292 feet above their present height, and that the waters of the Dead Sea, which he found 1,050 feet deep, were once on a level with the present Mediterranean sea margin, or 1,292 feet above their present height. The great physical changes which had taken place in geological time were evidenced by the fact that whilst the rocks in Western Palestine were generally limestone, those of the mountains of Sinai were amongst the most ancient in the world. The various geological and geographical features of the country were so described as to make the address a condensed report of all that is now known of them in Egypt, Palestine, and Arabia Petraea. Sir Henry Barkley, G. C. M. G., F. R. S., moved a vote of thanks to Professor Hull, and to those who had contributed to the work of the Institute during the year, which included Assyriological investigations by Professor Sayce, Mr. Boscawen, and others; M. Maspero's and Capt. Conder's Egyptian papers; Professor Porter's Eastern researches; also a review of the question of Evolution by Professor Virchow, and the results of investigations in regard to the subject of the origin of man, as to which it had been shown by Sir William Dawson, that geology divided the chronology of animal life into four "great periods;" in the first, - or Eozonic, - in the Geological as in the Bible records, were found the great