

sion is not an easy one. a single example will show.

It is said that Tippoo Tib, whose power is yet unchallenged on the Upper Congo, commands 2,000 men, armed with Winchester rifles. It is their business to raid the villages throughout a wide range of country for the acquisition of slaves. Pillage, slaughter, fire and devastation are merely incidents in the work of capture. The terrible journey to the coasts is a sequel, and the business must be extensive enough to cover a large per cent. of deaths by the way, and an occasional loss by rescue. How shall this evil be reached at its source?

We understand that the Conference has agreed: First. That where it is possible, the tribes concerned in the raiding shall be held responsible. Second. Any tribe through whose territory a slave caravan passes shall be held to account. Third. The chief in whose territory on the coasts the shipment of slaves occurs shall also be dealt with. Fourth. The police of the sea shall be maintained by the joint effort of the European powers.

It may confidently be hoped that these measures will greatly curtail the desolations of this horrible traffic in flesh and blood. More than this cannot be expected till European philanthropy can draw the ligatures of repression more closely and strangle the hydra in its inmost retreats.

In regard to the liquor traffic, the problem is still more difficult. In this case it is the civilized powers themselves that are the offenders. The dark tide of poison that deluges the coasts of Africa flows from so-called Christian lands. The Governments of Great Britain, France, and Germany are ready to capture slave ships on the Red Sea—are they prepared to confront the liquor interests of their own realms?

The attitude of the United States is still more doubtful. In 1885, when Great Britain, France, Italy, and Austria were ready to unite in an effort

to suppress the introduction of liquor and fire-arms into certain groups of the Pacific Isles, where terrible havoc was being produced, the State Department at Washington refused to join. Public sentiment in Europe has not credited our Government with the highest and purest motives for this refusal, nor has it hesitated to declare that the responsibility of failure rests with the United States and Germany.

What the Conference at Brussels has accomplished in reference to the liquor traffic, is to affect an agreement that beyond the present coast belt—rather a broad one unfortunately—the liquor importations shall not extend. This is something to be thankful for, and it points to the interior as the most hopeful mission field. It affords an answer also to those—some of them Christian men—who have been ready to conclude that Mohammedanism, with its strong prohibition of all intoxicants, would, for the present at least, offer a better evangel to Central Africa than our Christian faith coupled with the vices of Christendom.

In any view, the outlook of Africa is mixed with light and shade. Its problems are too great for human wisdom; too great for the Conference of the Powers.

Unfortunately, the Mohammedan slave traders of Africa have two words which they may hurl back with terrible force in the face of Christian nations: "Opium!" "Rum!" And they are not careful to discriminate between Christianity and Christendom. They take no account of any difference between the counsels and the prayers of the missionary societies in Boston and the agnosticism and whiskey of the distilleries not far away which are under contract to supply for the African trade 3,000 gallons per day for seven years.

Is there any way then for the Christian church but to look away to the hills whence cometh her help? It is the time for a *concert* of prayer for Africa. A greater burden was never brought to the mercy seat.