

ing to the custom, human sacrifices were offered, and although such a custom as this cannot be pursued beneath the vigilant watch of English officials, yet such was the superstition attaching to fabrics so consecrated, that Mr. Last, when he wished to pull down the old doorway, was forced to give the work to his Christian laborers. It is to be hoped that the presence of English officials at Dunga and at Chuaka may tend to overawe slave-owners, whose cruelty is beyond all doubt frequent and unrelenting. For thirty years past, or even more, we have been told that to abolish the slave-trade time is required. Our answer to such an objection is that sufficient time has now surely elapsed. The Zanzibar Government has undoubtedly done much good work by opening up the island and by encouraging proper industry. Still, it must be remembered that the greater part of the island lies absolutely beyond the control of civilized rulers. There must be hundreds, probably thousands, who have never seen the town of Zanzibar, and have never heard what goes on there. We believe the abolition of the legal status of slavery would, in fact, be a great deal less costly than the alternative scheme of a coast-guard administration, as recently proposed. In any case, we cannot but confess to a certain amount of surprise that the abolition of slave traffic should have been so much and so long regarded as a matter of pounds, shillings, and pence. The truest way, we think, of honoring this unique occasion of our Queen's long reign would be the purification of her protectorate, once for all, from the dark stain which has for so long defiled its record.—*W.K.F. in Central Africa.*

"THE LITTLE ONE HAS BECOME A THOUSAND."

BY THE REV. S. W. COX, OF HERSCHEL, CAPE COLONY.



HE little one has become a thousand." To myself this fact is very encouraging, as I had the privilege and responsibility of commencing this Mission rather more than eighteen years ago. When I arrived here in September, 1878, the Church had no work whatever in the district of Herschel. There were indeed a few Europeans who were nominally Church-people; and certainly not more than half-a-dozen natives who had been under the Church's influence in other parts of South Africa. There are now 963 Native and sixty European Church-people in the district.

There have been 1,085 baptisms in the eighteen years and three months, and a few have come in from other missions, mainly from those belonging to the Church.

Besides those who have gone to their rest,

we have lost a considerable number of men who have found work at the Goldfields, and seem to have settled down there, in some cases with their families.

The contrast between our first Christmas here (in 1878) and the Christmas just past was indeed great. At the Holy Communion in 1878 there were only three of us present, viz., Mr. Newton (who spent a few weeks here at that time, and who, as you know, has lately gone to his rest), a native catechist, and myself. On Christmas Day this year there were 110 at the early celebration, many of whom had walked from five to fifteen miles. In 1878 we had our Christmas hymns and sermon under the trees; this year the neat Mission church must have had packed into it 250 people, whilst scores failed to gain an entrance. We make the most of the room we have, for the space all round the lectern, reading-desk, and even the lowest step of the sanctuary were occupied. It would have been a strange sight to a worshipper in one of your English churches to have seen the little black boys, with nothing on but their shirts, sitting on the step of the sanctuary. I intended to baptize twenty-one adults after the second lesson, but it was impossible to get near the font, so I finished the service and sermon, then asked the unbaptized to depart, when I proceeded with the baptismal service. I wonder Christmas Day is not more often chosen as a day of baptism, the collect being so very appropriate for the occasion. There would have been as many more adults baptized, but I have been unable to see them for the final catechising before baptism through an attack of rheumatism.—*Gospel Missionary.*

THE EVANGELIZATION OF THE WORLD.

A LETTER FROM BISHOP TUCKER.

New Year's Day, 1897.



MY DEAR FRIENDS,—I want to enlist your sympathy and help in one of the noblest enterprises of this wonderful nineteenth century of ours, which is so fast drawing to a close.

This enterprise is nothing less than the long deferred evangelization of the great heathen world—the world that knows not God. Men think it a great and noble thing to have a part, even though it be but a small one, in the conquest of those who are the enemies of our country and of our sovereign lady the Queen. And so no doubt it is. But how much more glorious is the part of those who are called to the work of doing battle with the enemies of our God—with the forces and powers of evil as they present themselves to us in the sins, sorrows, and sufferings of Heathendom!