

it would go hard with the present dynasty. The misfortunes which have happened since the present Emperor's accession have revived the discontent that was felt at the irregularity of his succession, which found its expression at the time, as will be remembered, in the suicide of one of the Censors. We would earnestly echo the remarks of our New Chwang correspondent, and impress upon the naval authorities that *no treaty port in the empire ought to be left without a man-of-war this winter*. There is no special antipathy to foreigners; but their safety may easily be involved in some tumult that has arisen from causes entirely unconnected with their presence.—*North China Herald*.

Egypt.—The Rev. James Cantine, the first missionary of the recently organized Arabian Mission, sailed on the *City of Rome* last month. He will spend the winter in Syria carrying on his Arabic studies. In early spring he will be joined by Mr. S. M. Zwemer, of the Theological Seminary, New Brunswick, N. J. The two will then proceed to their field of work—South-western Arabia—in connection with Keith-Falconer Mission of the Free Church of Scotland. The chief object of this mission is to do pioneer work, and especially (*i. e.*, not exclusively but equally) in behalf of Moslems and slaves. The brief history of the Keith-Falconer Mission shows alike the great need and great encouragement for undertaking this work at once and carrying it forward vigorously. This mission is for the present, at least, independent, in the sense that it looks for its support to any without reference to denominational adherence. This was not the preferred way of founding and carrying on the mission, but it was the way to which the founders were shut up if the work designed and desired was to be accomplished. It was hoped that this mission would be founded by and under the charge of the Reformed Church. The action of the last General Synod led many to

hope that this mission would be added to the other missions carried on by the Reformed Church. Owing to its large and growing indebtedness, however, the Board of the Church felt compelled to decline to assume this new responsibility, while at the same time expressing a great interest in it. Hence the present character of this mission. The funds for its support are contributed upon a syndicate plan. The mission has found a number of warm friends and supporters in various denominations, and the work is progressing in a very encouraging manner.

J. G. L.

England.—Letter from Bishop Taylor.—“I have just arrived from the Congo. My principal business, on a hasty trip, to return to West Africa in a few weeks, is to complete arrangements with the builder of our steamer to send a master builder from his yard to put her together and see her afloat as quickly as possible. Happily, delays are not always failures, but often essential conditions to ultimate success. I believe it will be so in regard to our unexpected delays with the steamer.

“The teaching force of all the facts in the case brings us clearly to the conclusion that the planting of missions extensively in the great and populous countries of the upper Kassai and Sankura, requires that we have a chain of missions, and a transport agency and facilities, extending from the sea to the centre of the Continent, giving us, by the way, a neglected, densely populated region, belonging to the Congo State, on the north side of Lower Congo, 100 by 250 miles in extent. The older missions are working on the south side of the Congo, so that we shall in no way encroach upon them. So, as a part of these foundation arrangements on the Lower Congo, essential success on the Upper Congo waterways, we find that our steamer is needed, by twenty to one, more on the Lower Congo than upon the Upper. We shall