

AT CLOSE OF DAY.

MRS. C. S. SAVAGE.

What was your wish to-day?
That no life be made sadder
But the world a bit gladder,
Because you have lived to-day?

What was your thought to-day?
Did it make a heart lighter,
Or some child's eyes brighter,
Because you have told it to-day?

What was your labor to-day?
A day's simple duty,
Not barren of beauty,
Because it pleased Jesus to-day?

What was your burden to-day?
Did Jesus help share it,
Did his great love bear it,
Because of your weakness to-day?

What was your prayer to-day?
That Christ's care would hold you,
His loving arms fold you,
While working and trusting to-day?

FIELD STUDY FOR AUGUST.

AFRICA.

FROM the prayer for the destruction of the liquor traffic, we come prepared to pray for Africa—to pray for her and study her needs. These surely are not realized by Christians. The people as a whole are asleep to the terrible wrongs committed against the negro races by having liquor forced into their country. The Britain that in the early part of the century spent twenty million pounds to make all her subjects free men, will surely some day be ready for this greater sacrifice.

The evil is becoming worse and worse; and, now, probably a million lives are lost every year in Africa through drink.

Yet in spite of this deadly plague Christianity is winning its way.

The first six or seven years that a missionary spends among uneducated people are apt to be disheartening. Only absolute trust that God's "word will not return unto him void" could keep the missionary from despair. Then the harvest is astonishing. The thousands of converts on the Congo have all been made during the last ten years. The first ten were spent in foundation work—slow developing of ideas, gaining of the confidence of the natives by long patience, the seed-sowing.

It took some time to get past Stanley Pool. This beautiful sheet of water (44 miles long, and in some places as broad) was chosen as the barrier. "We will come here and trade. You must stay below. Beyond is ours." Thirteen attempts the missionaries made before they were allowed to go further.

One man worked on the upper Congo seven years without one conversion. One day he spoke from the words, "Give to him that asketh of thee." The natives took him literally and next day besieged him for gifts and he gave till nothing was left. They were impressed "This surely must be the God-man." Everything was brought back to him; and a great work began. They wished to follow the Christ, who, he told them, left all for them. Hundreds of conversions followed.

Stanley came down the Congo in 1877, and the following year Baptist missionaries from the United States went up the river. Soon after a few were sent out from Sweden; but most of the work in the valley has been done by Americans, the new work taken up by the English being mostly in Uganda and the Lake country.

Many different societies are now represented on the Congo. Perhaps the most interesting mission is that of the Methodist Episcopal Church under Bishop Taylor. What a marvelous man he is, preaching himself in every continent, asking on his seventieth birthday for twenty more years to work in Africa!

His mission was not the first organized on the self-supporting plan. About fifty years ago in the quiet German village of Hermannsburg, the Pastor, Louis Harms, was stirred to do something for Africa. His peasant bearers had little money to give but some offered to go themselves; all prepared to help them. Some sailors volunteered later and it was their misunderstanding of the plan that decided the character of the mission—to take with them means by which they could support themselves (their tools, etc.) and a sufficient number to form a small colony. They even built the ship that was to take them.

It is interesting to note that they selected British territory, Natal. They were disappointed in not being able to begin in entirely new ground, but they persevered and as the colony grew by additions from the home land, they sent out part of their number into the region beyond where no other voice had preached the Gospel.

QUESTIONS FOR AUGUST.

- What is said of the needs of Africa?
- Why do you think they are not realized by Christians?
- What reason have we for thinking that Britain may one day put a stop to the liquor traffic in her empire?
- How many are lost through drink every year in Africa?
- Is Christianity at a standstill?
- What keeps the Missionary from despair?
- What is said of the last ten years in Congo?
- What of the first ten years?
- How did Stanley Pool become a barrier?
- Tell the wonderful story of the Missionary who labored for seven years without one convert.
- When did Stanley come down the Congo, and what followed?
- What country sent out missionaries next?
- Who have done most of the work in the valley of the Congo?
- Where have the English chiefly worked?
- Which is really the most interesting mission?
- What remarkable fact is recorded of Bishop Taylor?
- Was his Mission the first on the self-supporting plan?
- Who was moved to do something for Africa fifty years ago?
- What help did he get from those around him and later from the sailors?
- What territory did they choose and what was the result?