

MISSION FIELD.

CENTRAL AFRICA.

There are news of fresh troubles and disturbances in Central Africa. The Rev. W. P. Johnson says that it is important to observe that the immediate cause is not from the Arabs themselves, but from the black coastmen who act as their allies and agents. He visited Mr. Moir, of the Scotch African Lakes Company, on board their steamer, the *Itala*, and found him still suffering acutely from the severe wounds which he received in the fray with the Arabs last year. It is now hoped that he may escape without amputation of a limb. Of the black coastmen he says, "Their caravans are everywhere, Arabs only here and there." Archdeacon Hodgson reports threatening movements of the Magwangwara tribe, and the intercepting of some Newala letters in May. In April Mr. Porrer wrote from Newala that Matola and his people were expected to migrate shortly thence to a place of greater security. Mr. Porter reports a visit to the Makonde country, to which he thinks the Mission might be transferred.

GRAHAMSTOWN.

The Bishops of Grahamstown in his charge of January, 1888, says in reference to the liquor traffic with the native races: "We must be careful to guard against exaggeration in our righteous indignation against the encroachments of soul destroying influences upon the weaker races. If it were really true, for instance, that any number of our fellow colonists were engaged in a conspiracy for the annihilation of the native races through the sale of liquor with the connivance of the Government and Legislature of the land, no humiliation for our share in such guilt could be too great, and no action too strong. But surely a fair consideration of the actual position, and of the treatment of the native population as it is presented, not in theories of political speeches and writing, but under our personal observation, would lead to the conclusion that any such charge is unjust and untrue. It is certainly passing strange that such a measure as the removal of the Excise Tax should have been enacted, while we have to pay duty on Church furniture and musical instruments. But on the other hand, no sinister design can be fairly deduced from the withdrawal of the restriction imposed upon 'proclaimed areas.' During a recent visitation journey through the Reserves and districts chiefly occupied by natives, I made special enquiries into the social condition of the people. Idleness and sloth; the absence of any real interest or ambition in life; the insecurity of tenure; the jealousies, quarrels; and vicious practices inherently attaching to polygamy; the crowding of families and of both sexes into a few round huts; the other traditions of heathenism and barbarism, without

some balancing and corrective forces such as strict discipline under the chief, and the self-restraint imposed by training for the life of the warrior—these appear to me to be the depressing and degenerating influences at work quite as much as any facility for obtaining liquor. In one district I found a great deal of drinking going on, but the beverage was the beer manufactured by the natives themselves, for which the material was abundant. In the prisons there were 50 convictions for drunkenness in 1887 as compared to 80 in 1884. In the country I met fewer drunken men and women than I should expect to see among civilised people. A local option should be possible for any district where prohibition is found to be desirable, and there should be the means of guarding against illicit traffic. But facilities for individual tenure of land, the sanctions of Christian marriage, and buildings which may become Christian homes, industrial training and a religious education, are essential conditions for the elevation of the native races.



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NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS.

SEALED TENDERS, addressed to the undersigned and endorsed "Tender for the St. Lawrence Canals," will be received at this office until the arrival of the eastern and western mails on TUESDAY, the 30th day of October instant, for the construction of two locks and the deepening and enlargement of the upper entrance of the Galops Canal.

A map of the locality, together with plans and specifications, will be ready for examination at this office and at the Lock-Keepers House, Galops, on and after Tuesday, the 18th day of October instant, where forms of tender may be obtained by Contractors on personal application.

In the case of firms there must be attached the actual signatures of the full name, the nature of the occupation and residence of each member of the firm, and further, a bank deposit receipt for the sum of \$8,000 must accompany the tender for the works. The respective deposit receipts—cheques will not be accepted—must be endorsed over to the Minister of Railways and Canals, and will be forfeited if the party tendering declines entering into contract for the work at the rates and on the terms stated in the offer submitted. The deposit receipts thus sent in will be returned to the respective parties whose tenders are not accepted.

A. F. BRADLEY,
Secretary.

Department of Railways and Canals,
Ottawa, 11th October, 1887. } 23-2

Sault Ste. Marie Canals.

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS.

THE WORKS for the construction of the Canal, above mentioned, advertised to be let on the 23rd of October next, are unavoidably postponed to the following dates:—

Tenders will be received until

Wednesday, the 7th day of Nov. next

Plans and specifications will be ready for examination at this office, and at Sault Ste. Marie on and after

Wednesday the 24th day of Oct. next.

By order,

A. F. BRADLEY,
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Department of Railways and Canals,
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