

hanies, a mountain elevation of such imperial dimensions as to equal many times the area of New England. There are a few large indentations and consequently few good harbors along the 16,000 miles of African coast line. Geological investigation seems to indicate that the formation of this continent is lacustrine rather than glacial.

Rich gold deposits are found in Senegambia, in the region around Leydenburg in the Transvaal, and elsewhere in South Africa. There are rich diamond fields in the Orange valley, mostly in Kimberly. Ruins having stones cut with the historic "Tyrian bevel" are found in the Leydenburg region. These are among the indications that this country was the Ophir of Solomon's time.

Millions of dollars' worth of gems and precious metals and other millions' worth of ivory, rubber and ostrich feathers, annually find their way to other lands from Africa. Coal, iron and useful deposits are found there in abundance. No other land can compare with this in vastness of areas adapted to raising cotton, sugar, coffee, spices, gums, dyestuffs, etc. Equally amazing is her capacity for raising grass, fruits and vegetables, horses, cattle, sheep and other domestic animals. Her forest wealths, too, are royal.

The brilliance, variety and luxuriance of African flora and bird life, are simply amazing. There is no more inviting field on the planet for the study of botany, ornithology, geology and the natural sciences. The crystalline air of upper levels of this mountain continent is exceptionally adapted likewise to astronomic observation. The combined grandeur and dreamy beauty of landscapes, make it an ideal for the artist.

With mental and moral culture, the millions of Africa's native races are capable of taking a leading hand in developing these resources, and also of furnishing a market for the surplus products of the skilled industry of Christendom. But if the bloody and blighting influence of slave traders and liquor dealers continues, it will be as ruinous of that commerce which is the life of capital and labor, as it is of the bodies and souls of mankind; financial as well as mental and moral death are in the wake of these twin demons of destruction.

### OUR SUFFERING SISTERS.

**T**HIS is the title of a little book recently published by the "International Medical Missionary Society" of New York, one of the objects of which Society is to train young men and women to go abroad as medical missionaries. The incidents of suffering and barbarous treatment of the unfortunate women of India are almost too terrible to describe. Mrs. Geo. D. Dowknott, who writes the book, thus speaks of it:—

"Possibly few women know, and fewer still realize, the terrible condition of physical suffering endured by millions of our sisters in heathendom,

owing to their lack of the advantages of medical science, which we possess and enjoy.

It is the purpose of the writer to place before her sisters some facts relating to this subject, for their thoughtful consideration, trusting that they may become interested in a work, which should obtain their hearty sympathy and co-operation.

No science is so indebted to, and compatible with Christianity, as that of medicine; the very basis of which is the relief of physical suffering, in accordance with the example and teaching of the Great Physician, who healed all the sick, and who told His hearers that even the very hairs of their heads were all numbered.

How terrible is the condition of poor suffering women in India, the following extract will show; it is culled from a letter written by Miss Emma J. Cummings, M.D., a lady Medical Missionary in that country.

'I shall never forget (I wish I could) one experience that I had; I was called up at midnight to see a woman in the last stages of puerperal fever.

'I found her tossing and muttering in a delirium that ran into stupor and then death. I did what I could to make her comfortable, bathing the hot skin, and moistening the parched lips, etc., then inquired if the child—born seven days before—were living. One of the women answered indifferently, 'Yes, it's alive yet.' I asked where it was, and she replied, 'Oh, it is in there,' pointing to another room, 'but never mind the baby, it's not worth while to do anything for it; it is nothing but a girl.'

'I went in at once, and found the poor little thing lying on a rough cord bedstead, with only one thickness of thin cloth beneath it. It had never been washed, and for four days had not been fed, and every tiny bone was visible through the drawn skin.

Physician though I am, my eyes filled with tears, as I took up the little skeleton. I did what I could to save, but a merciful Father took the little soul to where it would be loved and developed, even though it had been 'only a girl,' and as I thought of the blessed change I thanked Him that my efforts had been unavailing. The mother died a few hours later, but I wonder if you ladies, in your refined homes, can imagine the death scene in India? No sooner did they learn that death was near, than neighbors began to swarm in, until the miserable hut had twenty or thirty in it, all vying with each other in groaning, shrieking, smiting the chests and screaming. In vain I showed them that the noise was torture to her poor brain, and that her head began to roll from side to side again. I could not keep them even from throwing themselves full weight upon her poor chest, laboring harder and harder to give her breath, and when I wanted to give a few drops of medicine, but failed because her jaws were already