

ease with which a missionary field is reached now than a generation ago, observes :

"We know that it requires about twenty days to accomplish the 6,000 marine miles which divide the English coasts from Cape Town. The railway which joins this city with Kimberley has been pushed out some 670 miles, a passage of about twenty-four hours. Nothing easier, as we see, than to go from Paris to Kimberley, in the heart of South Africa ; it requires but twenty-five days and from 1,500 to 1,600 francs. But less than thirty years ago M. and Madame Mabille have had a voyage of 104 days between England and Cape Town, and they found it to require fifty days, including the necessary preparations for a wagon journey, to go from there to Lessouto. To-day the Zambezi is hardly farther off than was, forty years ago, the country of Mashesh—in the Transvaal. Only on reaching Kimberley do they harness up the heavy wagon which transports the missionary to Kazungula, where we cross the Zambezi to enter into the country of the Barotsis."

It has been already mentioned that, as the French Government, since taking possession of the Gaboon, has forbidden the American missionaries to teach anything but French in their schools, these have found it necessary to solicit their French Protestant brethren to send them out teachers, which they have done. The editors of the *Journal* remark : "The reception given to our friends at the Gaboon, as well by the authorities as by the American missionaries, has been excellent. The latter have themselves written to thank the Society for the pains which it has taken to secure and send out these auxiliaries of French speech, the introduction of whom had become an absolute necessity, involving the very existence of the mission. Thus our young people have found at the stations true friends, with whom they are happy to be fellow-laborers."

One of these young gentlemen, M. Virgile Gacon, who found in the American mission a more rigorous rule of total abstinence than is commonly thought necessary in France, writes :

"Mr. Good has explained to us in full the importance which here belongs to the question of abstinence. The matter is not difficult to comprehend : when once a black man has tasted alcohol, it is too late to say to him, Stop. At another time I shall be able to write at length on this subject. For now this one fact will suffice. There is near here a village, which will soon be entirely destroyed. The cause is 'water-of-life,' *eau-de-vie*, or rather, water-of-death. In many places men have been known to die a few hours after having drunk these drugs, purchased at high price. He who follows such a business is unworthy of the name of civilized European."

M. Brandt, of the French mission in Sénégal, touches upon a too well-known fault of the African character :

"At every moment I am baffled against their inertia, their lack of reflection, and above all the mobility of their impressions. If I ask of my scholars to enumerate to me the distinguishing marks of a truly Christian child, they will give them with marvelous precision, but as to acting agreeably thereto, no one dreams of it. They have rather a superabundance of those ready-made phrases, those expressions so beautiful in the mouths of those who really feel them, but so cold when coming from those who are not touched by them, and which may be called the *palais* of Casan, 'Many words and few deeds,' is something of which I have often to remind them."

II.—ORGANIZED MISSIONARY WORK.

Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge. Founded 1698.

This society is the *Bible and Prayer-Book Society* of the Church of England. During the year it circulated \$88,997 of these books or portions in over 75 languages, at a cost to the society's funds of over £10,000. It is a *Tract and Pure Literature Society*. During the year were sold to the amount of £28,730, and books to the value of £3,805 15s. were granted free to churches, mission rooms, schools, etc. It is a *Missionary Society*, and assists in the mainte-

nance of bishops and clergy for the Colonial and Missionary Dioceses in the training of candidates for holy orders, and in preparing native students for lay mission work. It devotes a portion of its funds to aid medical missions in the East, and for the training of medical missionaries. This latter plan now includes the training of female medical missionaries for the spread of the gospel among the women of India. Five thousand pounds have been voted during the year for the extension of medical missions, £2,000 toward the endowment of the Sees of Perth, W. A., Bathurst, and Ottawa; £1,000