

pocket edition of the revised Malagasy Bible was issued. The books are in clear type, neatly bound, and sold below cost at one shilling; so as to be within the reach of most. This pocket Bible is esteemed a great boon, and when the consignment reached Antananarivo there was a great rush to secure copies. In a few days every copy was sold, and the people were crying out for more.

—The first translation of the Scriptures in the Malayan language was made by John Van Hasel, a director of the East India Company. When he had completed a version of the Gospel according to St. Matthew, he delivered the manuscript to Peter de Carpentier, the chief director of the company, and therefore this honor belongs to the Dutch. The kingdom of Menangkabon, in the central region of Sumatra, appears to have been the original country of the Malays, but impelled probably by a love of adventure, they possessed themselves at a very early period of time of the Malayan peninsula. Malayan is a branch of the ancient and widely extended language of which fragments are to be found in many of the Islands of the Pacific. The Polynesian language, ranging from the South Sea islands to the East, as far as Madagascar in the West, bears in the Malay tongue the same proportion as Anglo-Saxon does in English, and words borrowed from Sanscrit and Arabic occupy in it the same relative position as words derived from Greek and Latin do in our own language.—General C. W. DARLING, in *Christian Intelligencer*.

—In two recent numbers of the "Reports of the Rhenish Missionary Society," Dr. Schreiber discusses the prospects of missions among Mohammedans, and maintains that they are nowhere so hopeful as in the East Indies, and in Dutch East India most hopeful of all. "For more than thirty years our society has expended at least half its force in the effort to combat the extension of Islam in our three mission

fields in the Dutch East Indies. But it appeared to be our duty first of all to spread the Gospel in those districts where Islam has not yet gained possession, and where the people are much easier to win. In the course of the last ten years, however, an alteration has taken place; gradually and almost unconsciously we have been forced to work among the Mohammedans themselves. This is especially the case in Sumatra. We have two stations there where our missionaries have to do exclusively with Battas who have been converted to Islamism. In many other stations the missionaries have a great deal of work among Mohammedans. And the conclusion which has been reached is that these people are very far from being as inaccessible as has been hitherto supposed. More than 1600 Mohammedans have joined our Christian communities during the last ten years."

—Rev. H. A. Robertson writes: "One fact which must rejoice every one is this, that I now have 40 teachers at work on Erromanga. Of that number, our church in Canada supports 30. These 30 teachers themselves support 2 others, and 8 besides these 32 have been settled on faith. But as we live in a practical world, and they must have something to eat, I am going to ask a few friends anywhere and everywhere to help us pay these 8 men and their wives, as they are thus far without any guaranteed salary. The sum total of £40, I feel bound in honor to give the 8 of them as coworkers with us, for they are as able and useful as any of the other 32, who are on a salary of £5 each." He has this to say of their arduous service: "In this work may be mentioned visiting and nursing the sick and dying, going on foot, 5, 10, 20, 30 and 40 miles, as the case may be, to the missionary, for counsel, medicine, and nourishing European food for them; carrying all that stuff back; and, if need be, repeating again and again the same journey for the same objects."