

frequently marries as many as fifty of these children. Should he die, they become widows. There are over 20,000,000 of these child widows about 80,000 of them are under nine years of age. A widow is not permitted to marry again, is looked upon with contempt as enduring punishment for some horrible crimes committed in a former state of existence. Her clothing is a single coarse garment; her food, only one meal a day, of the very poorest kind. She is the household drudge, secluded, beaten, cursed. Her life, empty of every pleasure, void of all hope, often becomes intolerable and forces her to suicide or a life of infamy.

What is the Ramabai effort for these widows? Through contributions given and pledged to Ramabai while in the United States and Canada, she has established a school in Poona for the education and elevation of high-caste widows. The school was opened in March, 1889, with one child widow and one non-widow. At the close of the second year, Ramabai writes, "The Sharada Sadama has been doing very good work, and has been of much use to many a child widow, and has grown larger and larger in spite of all the oppositions, criticisms and difficulties it had to face. We have 26 widows and 13 non-widow girls. My heart fills with joy and gratitude when I see so many dear girls enjoying their lives." The Toronto Ramabai Circle has contributed \$1,091 to this work.

Will Islam rule Africa? Whether Africa is to be, as some one has said, "The continent of the twentieth century," or not, it is likely to be the continent of studious attention during the last decade of the nineteenth century. At any rate it is bound to be, is already beginning to be, the arena of a desperate struggle between Islam and Christianity.

Some phases of African ethnology are in no end of dispute; but all agree that south of the Soudan, or land of the blacks, nearly down to the Cape of Good Hope, there are many tribes, but of one allied race, now commonly called the Bantu race. The Bantus are a far nobler type of men than the Negroes. There are probably seventy-five millions of them. The bulk of their territory is in the region of natural cultivation. The Bantu race, so situated, is the prize which now lies open between Islam and Faith in Africa. Islam has a considerable following in the north-east, and Christianity, perhaps, an equal following in the south among the Bantu people. The battle is now set. Which is likely to win? One or the other substantially before 1950.