

more hopeless state than the wild blacks. The latter remain in the bush and have the vices only of barbarism, but the former have come out into the settlements, and loaf about stations and roadside taverns, where they sometimes chop a little wood or track lost cattle, but only that they may get tobacco, opium, or whiskey. Their knowledge of English is confined to bad language, their dress consists of rags or the dirtiest clothes, and their whole appearance is most repulsive. When they came to the mission station they had the notion that the Government was going to do everything for them, but when they found that they were to work and to obey rules many of them "struck." They think that no men, except "foolish white fellows" work; for although they see that we have much that they have not, they see also that there are some things that they can do better, such as finding water, tracking men or horses, and also that we do some things that seem to them most foolish, such as continuing to work when we have enough to eat without working any more. They therefore sometimes make allowances for our follies among themselves, saying, "Oh, it's only a white fellow," as if that were enough to explain anything.

A Bishop once visited the station and they were brought in to the church to hear him speak to them. They liked that finely, and would have welcomed a Bishop or any one else every day, if only he was the means of saving them from an hour's work, and so they listened to him most patiently as long as he chose to speak. He was so pleased that at the close of his address he praised them and said that they were far better than the people of Melbourne. That was just what they themselves thought, and they went away saying that "for a white fellow the Bishop really knew something!"

In the school, I heard a class examined in English History. There were whites, half-breeds and blacks in the class, and a black girl gave the best answers. It sounded odd to hear the girl telling all about the Romans leaving England, and the subsequent invasions by land and sea. In

another class two black boys were learning by heart, Wordsworth's "We are seven," and the steady dogged way in which they dinned it into their memories, as well as the purity of their English pronunciation, quite surprised me.

Mr. Hagenaner has many disappointments in his work. Some begin well and go back to heathenism. Others seem unable to learn anything and able to think only of their bodily wants. But the gospel has won its triumphs among these degraded people as well as it has in every other land. "Is it needed" he asks "to refer to happy old Paton, to Samuel, to Daniel, who as assistant to the missionaries for Cooper's Creek, died in faith at Adelaide,—to Timothy, to Tommy, to Philip Pepper, to Rebecca, to old Tena, to Dicky Dicky the great cricket player in England—and a great many others who have gained the victory through the blood of the Lamb? A little of it has been made known here on earth, but before the sea of crystal the songs of praise will be raised by them in the midst of the redeemed to the Lord, who has dealt wonderfully with them.

Even among those who have not become Christians the old customs have changed. The war paint and weapons have been laid aside; the women are treated with kindness or at least with less cruelty; and the horrible nocturnal corrobories have been abandoned. The greatest discouragement to the devoted missionaries is the decay of the race, and the feeling that much of their work is thus apparently wasted. "It often appears" he says, "as if we were servants and Chaplains at an hospital; for their old diseases still reduce their numbers, and the numerous graves in our cemetery testify that the days of the remnant are numbered." Thus instead of a flourishing congregation, he has only fifty or sixty in all at the station; and the shadows of the end are resting on these.

Mr. Anthony Trollope, in his book on Australia, devotes a chapter to Ramahyuck and he gives unstinted testimony to the ability and character of Mr. Hagenaner; but in view of the doom which clearly