

aim to use only the linguistic materials found in the Old Testament itself, but to use it in an ornamental Oriental manner. In the nature of the case he has succeeded but partially, although he was especially equipped for the task by his fine renditions into Hebrew of portions of Shakespeare and Milton.

It is singular, notwithstanding the strange fact that it seems impossible to arouse the interest of the church in general for the mission work in Israel, and that this is left almost entirely to the spontaneous efforts of a few individuals and local societies, that there are proportionally a larger number of men working for Israel's conversion than there are for the Gentile world. According to Dalman's statistics, there are about 6,400,000 Jews on the globe. The number of missionaries is 377, or one for every 16,978 Israelites. According to the statistics of the Rev. E. Storow, in the April *Missionary Review of the World*, the proportionate number of agents at work in evangelizing the non-Christian nations is one to every 20,400. —*The Independent*.

—The special importance of the Swahili may be inferred from these remarks of Dr. Cust in his valuable work on the African languages:

"This is, and is destined to continue, one of the twelve most important languages of the world, with reference to the vast area over which it is a *Lingua Franca*, its position as a leading language amidst a host of uncultivated congeners, and its power of assimilating alien elements, especially the Arabic, which has done for it what it has also done for the Turkish, Persian, Urdu, Hausa and Malay. . . . Swahili means 'the language of the people of the coast.' . . . It is still spoken in the greatest linguistic purity about Patta and the other ancient settlements: along the coast, proceeding downwards, it has become greatly modified by alien influences, Arabic, Persian, Indian, Portuguese, till in Zanzibar it reaches the extreme degree of divergence. I cannot call this corruption, unless I could at the same time call the magnificent Indian vernacular Urdu a corruption, instead of a development of Hindu, and English a corruption of Anglo-Saxon. It is not even spoken on the coast to the south of Ibo. . . . A greater tribute can hardly be paid to it than is paid by Cameron, that he only understood this one language, and it carried him successfully through from the East to the West Coast, as some one was found in each tribe passed through who understood it. It has already been stated that the specimens of Swahili aided in the discovery of the great theory of the unity of the Bantu languages. It is not the court language or ruling language anywhere, not

even in Zanzibar, but the commercial language everywhere, whether at U-Jiji, or U-Ganda, or 'Lombasa, or in U-Zarämo. . . . Every drop of European culture that finds its way into the vast language field of the eastern and western sub-branches of the eastern branch of the Bantu family now under description must filter through this one mouthpiece of Zanzibar and this single funnel of Swahili. It must be borne in mind that portions of the Bible have now been translated and published by Steere in the dialect of Zanzibar. Experience on the West Coast of Africa, the story of the English Bible and of Luther's Bible, warn us that when the language of a country is still in flux, it will settle down and gravitate round the translation of the Scriptures, if a good one, as I doubt not that Steere's is: therefore, humanly speaking, the lines of the Swahili language are laid down forever. The Scotch do not value the translation of the Bible less because it is composed in the southern dialect of the great English language."

New Zealand.—Mr. A. Honore writes to *Echoes of Service* from Foston: "The work among the Maoris is carried on as usual. As a rule they come regularly to the meetings and are interested. Their average moral conduct is above that of the Europeans. Most of them have given up their habit of drinking. They are not all total abstainers, but drunkenness is rare, at least in this district. Large meetings and festivals are held at which not a drop of intoxicating liquor is used. They are becoming more and more industrious. They also clothe themselves respectably and build good houses. In comparing them with those of other countries where the drink traffic abounds, we have much to be thankful for. Yet there is such a thing as being sober and industrious whilst without Christ and without life. Were these Maoris proud and self-righteous and despisers of the Gospel, we should have no hope of them, but seeing that they willingly listen to it, and always ask me to come again, we have real reason to hope—indeed in some instances we are sure that it has been made the power of God unto salvation.

"During the past eight months about 30 saw mills have been opened in this district, employing over 700 men and youths, including some Maoris. Most of these men and youths are very godless. Vice, profanity and wickedness abound. This has a bad influence on the Maoris, so I am waiting upon the Lord that He may, if He will, send me or some other man to visit these places with the message of the Gospel.

"I have just returned from a visit to some Danish people at a place called Halcombe, about 30 miles from here. They listen to the word with much attention, and I hope soon to see real life among them."