

*Education.*—With the exception of the Mohammedans in the extreme north and northeast of this area, the people were without any literature. The necessity of giving the people the Bible in their own language was recognized from the first; but to learn the many unwritten languages and dialects, and reduce them to writing, was no small task. The words had to be "picked from between the teeth" of the natives, then by laborious effort a grammar would be worked out, and the work of translating taken up. To-day the Bible, or portions of it, have been translated into about one hundred and thirty-five languages and dialects. For some years the belief was widespread in America that education was necessary to prepare men to "comprehend the abstract principles of Christianity," and that raising up schools would draw all men to Christ. So schools of all grades, from the most elementary to colleges, were founded throughout the mission fields. Over two hundred and fifty thousand people have been taught to read God's Word in their own tongue. Not a few have been given a collegiate education, and will compare favorably in this respect with the average missionary. Some twenty-seven periodicals in the native tongues have been started. Complete grammars and very good dictionaries have been printed, and no inconsiderable literature has been provided in the principal languages. At the present rate of progress another twenty-five years will see as large a proportion of the people reading and writing as in Spain to-day.

Much attention has been given to the solution of the problem, "What is the best system of education for the Central African as we find him to-day?" While the problem has not yet been solved, much has been learned. This much has been conclusively shown, that the system which has been developed to meet the needs of the Anglo-Saxon in his present stage of civilization cannot develop the latent powers of the Central African. The tendency now is to give them the Gospel, let that create needs in them as it did in us, then place within their reach the means to meet those needs.

*Social.*—Whether or not we admit that social progress has kept pace with the advance in other lines, depends upon the standpoint from which we view the question. Certainly they have shown comparatively little desire to "ape the European." But that a great social evolution along natural lines is in progress, is admitted by most, if not all students of Africa, who have had opportunity to make extensive studies of the question on the field.

The homes of the married missionaries, showing forth fruits of the Gospel, have never failed to compel recognition, and have, next to the preaching the Gospel, been, in God's hands, the greatest uplifting power in Central Africa. Single men on a station where there are no families are invariably the object of suspicion. The present cry for "single men for Africa" is confined almost entirely to "arm-chair missionaries" who have never even visited Africa.

*Commercial progress* has kept pace with, if not outrun, all other forms of advance. The volume of trade has increased 4,300 per cent., and promises to keep on increasing. This led to the building of railroads, highways, bridges, steamboats for the inland rivers and lakes, the establishing of telegraph and mail routes, the great increase in the number of coast steamers, their size and speed, and the number of ports of call. Thus one of the great problems, the difficulty of travel and communication, is being rapidly met. In many places one missionary can, on account of the above advances, do as much itinerating as ten could a few years ago, with no increase in