

as being conferred by election to the pastorate, but a minister is not a higher style of man than his fellow-members; they are his peers, and a standing which is good enough for them is good enough for him. The Apostle Paul had no standing but his membership in Jerusalem church, and the full proof of his ministry furnished by the results of those labors in which he was "more abundant," and by means of which "his praise" was "in all the churches."

OUR MISSIONARY'S LETTER.

TRIP TO BENGUELLA.—Continued.

Monday, 24th.—We arrived at St. Thomas at about half past eight in the morning. This island was discovered in 1471 by one of the Portuguese explorers, but we are not told which. It is considerably larger than Prince's and was first colonized by Jews banished from Portugal by King John VI. For a long term of years it was made the very garden of Africa, and a pet colony of Portugal. Missionaries were sent to convert the natives to the Roman Catholic faith. Churches and other buildings for religious purposes were erected at great cost, but apparently the effort to christianize the people were not attended with the most happy results, for the ruins of ten or a dozen churches and cathedrals are to be seen scattered over the island, and many of the people have yet to learn that it is decent to cover their nakedness. The cultivation of sugar cane, once carried to a high state of perfection, was suppressed at St. Thomas in order to encourage its growth at Brazil, and when the latter country attained its independence, it was found that the culture of sugar had become a lost art in St. Thomas. We went ashore in a freight boat, sauntered about the town of St. Anne de Chames, visited the market place and there saw a large concourse of women, clad in loose flowing garments of striped material, generally blue and white, who were endeavoring with a great clatter to dispose of their small wares. The sight was quite picturesque, a fit subject for the brush of an artist. After walking for some time in the heat we became quite thirsty, enquired at a native house for cocoanuts, were invited in, and very kindly did the proprietor cause some fine nuts to be plucked from a tree and the milk of them to be served for our refreshment. In the evening a large shark was seen swimming about the vessel, while the little fish in fear fled before it. Some of the crew threw out a hook baited with several pounds of meat in the hope of being able to take him. To their sorrow however, the large fish helped himself to bait, hook and all, and took his departure to digest the mouthful if he could.

Tuesday, 25th, I went on shore before breakfast in order to secure some fruit, and was successful in my mission. I noticed quite a number of the blacks were tattooed by having three cuts across their cheeks parallel with their mouth, and three from the cheek bone on an angle toward the centre of the lip, while others had a greenish mark from the top of their forehead to the tip of their nose. Three young men with whom I met were able to speak in English, and informed me that they were trained at Sierra Leone. They wished to know whether I had English books for sale. Mr. Lacti, a colporteur of the British Bible Society, was on the island, but his stock of English bibles and books had run out and he was at the time sick with the fever in a native hut: subsequently he came on board and went with us to Ambrez. He appears to be doing a very good work.

Wednesday, 26th, we left St. Thomas at eleven in the morning and in a short time crossed the equator. Previous to this we had experienced some very hot weather and heavy rains. At once the rains ceased and cooler weather was felt, much to the joy of our whole company.

Thursday, 27th, we were drawing near to the Congo river. On the morrow we expected to part with our friends—the nine men who were bound for the Congo state. A kind of farewell service was held on deck, led and addressed by myself. The ladies and Brother Scott, being sick, were unable to attend. All the Congo men were present. At the close of the meeting the Swedish Count in a short address thanked us in behalf of the party for the interest we had taken in their welfare, and a meeting of a very happy nature came to an end. Shortly after the meeting a Romish Sister took one of the young men aside and informed him that we paid people to become converts, whereas they were poor and could not do that, but if he wanted to be happy he must say his prayers night and morning.

Friday, 28th, about six in the morning, we noticed a change in the color of the water. From a sea green it had changed to a dark brown. We were in the waters of the great Congo river. About half past two land came into sight. Shortly after five we arrived at Banana. Here for the first time on the voyage we had bread that was not sour.

Saturday, 29. The Congo river and a large kingdom bearing the name Congo was discovered in 1484 by Diego Cam, a portuguese. The kingdom was entirely south of the river, and stretched for a distance of 250 miles along the coast and 350 inland. The population was such that one of the rulers is said to have raised an army of 900,000 men for war. San Salvador was the capital and metropolis of the whole kingdom. It was situated in the province of Pemba, about fifty Ital-