

VI.—SLAVERY IN THE BRITISH EAST AFRICAN POSSESSIONS.

It is truly regrettable that the fugitive slave question in East Africa has taken a backward move. Until the recent document, issued by the English Foreign Office, termed "Further Correspondence Respecting Germany and Zanzibar" came to light, there was every expectation that the traffic in human chattels in and near British East African domains would continue to receive damaging blows. It is now otherwise. Unhappily, the subsequent action of Mr. George Mackenzie, who purchased the freedom of 1,400 slaves last January, whom he found stowed away in the missionary stations adjoining Mombasa, is disgracefully retrogressive.

To prevent the missionaries in future sheltering slaves Mr. Mackenzie counsels the missionaries to arrest the runaway slaves on entering their districts. Colonel Evan-Smith, too, strengthened by a note from the Foreign Office, intrusting him to warn all missionary societies against harboring escaped slaves, has actively co-operated with Mr. Mackenzie. Directions from Lord Salisbury to Colonel Evan-Smith are to "warn all mission societies against harboring runaway slaves, without making any exception. No legal right to do so can be claimed, and where a refuge and asylum are granted in extreme cases of peril and out of humanity, it is done at the risk of the person giving the shelter." This is capped with the communication sent by the British Consul at Zanzibar to the missionaries, that in case of a fugitive slave being taken into a missionary settlement "he should at once be sent back to the Wali of Mombasa, in order that his case may be inquired into in the presence of one of the mission officials." In the light of such deplorable revelations it is refreshing to hear that the United Free Methodist Missionaries "fail to appreciate" the force of these instructions. All honor to those who dare to act out the famous reply of Peter and his fellow apostles, "We ought to obey God rather than men."

VII.—THE LUCERNE ANTI-SLAVERY CONGRESS.

The reasons assigned by Cardinal Lavigne for the abandonment of the Lucerne Congress which should have been held last August, namely, "the divergence of views among the Powers, and the insufficient promises of attendance," are repudiated as not being in accordance with truth by most of the European Anti-Slavery societies. No whisper was audible of an inadequate attendance until the postponement of the Congress was announced. It was a grave misapprehension to suppose that the appointed distinguished delegates could again defer their business and official engagements to be present at an adjourned assembly. To cancel the original Congress for the sake of the French communal elections—largely a local reason—is inexplicable, nevertheless, an irreparable blunder.

In connection with the forthcoming International Congress of the European Powers on Slavery in October, much interest is excited. Would that the entire Christian Church were to present a supplication that the conference may inaugurate the brightest of chapters in the history of the Dark Continent. A Zanzibar telegram states that the Arabs are in a perturbed condition respecting its bearing upon themselves, and their lustful trade.

During the first week in September the Rev. A. H. Baynes, Secretary of the Baptist Missionary Society, had the honor of an interview with the King of the Belgians in Brussels with regard to the revision of transit tariffs on the Congo. Other questions affecting the welfare of the Baptist Congo Mission were introduced.

VIII.—THE NATIVE RACES AND LIQUOR TRAFFIC COMMITTEE.

The President of this powerful organization, the Duke of Westminster,