

TRANSLATIONS FROM FOREIGN MISSIONARY PERIODICALS.

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THE Missions-tidning för Finland, published in Swedish and Finnish by the established Lutheran Church, the head of which is the Archbishop of Abo, quotes the following from the Swedish traveler, George Pagels :

"Cannibalism is more widely spread in the Congo Valley than a traveler would easily suppose. Those who are addicted to it keep it very secret ; it seems as if, even among these creatures, standing at so low a point of moral development, there is some dim sense that, of all hideous things, this is the most hideous, the most monstrous. The tribes of the Batekas, the Bangalas, and the Arouhs, are especially notorious as men-eaters. The Batekas, however, who dwell in the wide districts around Stanley Pool, now begin, under the influence of the missionaries, to lay aside the abominable practice. How it is farther inland, we do not know from personal observation, but reports from there warrant our assuming that the habit is universal."

The Church of Finland has a mission in Owamboland, in South Africa. Last year 84 natives were baptized. The *Lund Missions-tidning* reclaims against the statement which puts Sweden almost at the bottom of the missionary scale as respects her gifts of men, and quite at the bottom as respects her gifts of money, making out that, while England sends out 4.8 persons for every 100,000 of her population, Protestant France, 4.2; Switzerland, 2.5; the Netherlands, 2.3; Germany, 1.8; Norway and America each, 1.4; Sweden only sends out 0.8, being superior only to Denmark, with her 0.6. As to money gifts, the scale presented is as follows : England, 60 ore for each person; Protestant France, 39; Switzerland, 19; the Netherlands, 17.9; America, 15.3; Norway, 9.9; Germany, 9; Denmark, 4, and Sweden, 1.9. In fact, declares *The Tidning*, Sweden, in 1886, sent out one missionary to every 100,000 of her population, and now somewhat more; and instead of contributing 1.9 ore per head, she contributed 6 ore. A gratifying rectification.

I observe that the Danish missionaries in the Madras Presidency think rather disparagingly of street-preaching, and of some forms of discussion. Herr Jensen writes :

"Last year I wrote a little about the opposition we began to meet with in our street-preaching. Since then it has increased considerably, and it seems sometimes as if they were uppermost and we undermost, they exulting, and we groaning under defeat. In my last year's letter I referred to some encounters with Hindus, which these had arranged, and which Lazarus and I attended. The Hindus had invited a catechist of the Scottish mission to dispute with them. And this catechist was so overjoyed at the opportunity, that nobody else could put in a word. On the other hand, the Hindus would only consent to discuss Christianity as a doctrine, something to which we never consent. The first two of these meetings were small, but they grew every time. There were five or six of them, and at the last there were some 2,000 present. Anything more pitiable I have never heard or been present at. The Christian catechist came armed with his Bible and Concordance; his heathen antagonists also with a Bible. A chairman was chosen, as I understand, a Brahmin. The discussion was throughout in Tamil. The subjects of discussion were various theological questions, among them the two natures of Christ. The Christian thought surely, after every encounter, that he had dealt a mighty blow for Christianity, and the heathen thought that he had taken its very life, whereas, the truth was, that Christianity, as such, had simply not come into discourse at all between the two. I attended the meetings because I held it to be my duty to be present, but I sat so bewildered over all this learned discussion over Christianity, that I had hard work to keep my thoughts to the matter in hand. It is sorrowful to see Christianity dragged down to become a matter for learned or unlearned jangling; it can only lose thereby. Our Lord Jesus' way of proceeding was quite otherwise. He also sought to take his antagonists in their own craftiness, but he never took the learned way. He threw his barbed shafts into their consciences."

Thus the gospel abroad, as at home, has to make its way slowly, by its own power, through all the imperfections of its professors and preachers. Mr. Jensen, being waited on by some heathen, with various questions, told them that if they were troubled about their personal relation to God in heaven, he was ready to help them, but that if they came as aliens from