

## Gleaner.

AN AGE OF MISSIONS.—The Church, we said, needs in this age, to be kept in mind of the great truth, that there remains yet much land to be possessed, not only as the common heritage of the faithful, but as the personal allotment and homestead, so to speak, of each one of the faithful. The churches, rediscovering a long neglected duty, are now attempting to evangelise the heathen. It is an *age of Missions*. The Islands of the Pacific have heard the cry, after the lapse of eighteen centuries, that our earth has been honored and blessed by the coming of a Divine Redeemer. China has shuddered to see the long dominion of her Confucius, and her Boodh, invaded by the gospel of Jesus, the Nazarene. The Shasters of Brahminism find their sacred tongue employed, by the diligence and fidelity of missionary translators, to utter the oracles of that One True God, who will banish from under the heavens, which they have not made, and which He has made, all the hundred thousand gods of the Hindoo Pantheon, with all the other idols of the nations, however ancient, and however popular. The tinglys of a new life from on high, seem, along the coast of Asia and of Africa, shooting into nations that Paganism held for centuries, senseless and palsied. Is not Ethiopia soon to be, as the prophetic eye of the Psalmist, long ages ago, saw her stretching out her hands unto God? But whilst each Christian church, each band of spiritual disciples, in lands long evangelized is thus lengthening the cords of her tent, to take in the Gentiles under its broad canopy, she must, in consequence, as it were, in counterpoise, of the extension, strengthen her stakes at home, to bear the increased tension, and the extended shelter. Her supports must be proportionately augmented at home, by a deepening piety, and a sturdier vigor of principle in her discipleship, or the work will soon come to a stand, abroad. A sickly and be-dwarfed Christianity here will not furnish the requisite laborers, or the need-

ful funds. Expansion without solidity, will bring upon our Zion the ruin of the arch unduly elongated and heavily overloaded. Christendom itself must be more thoroughly christianised, before Heathendom will relinquish its old character and worship, and learn our creed, and love our Saviour. Already the zeal, and heroic sacrifices of some of our recent converts shame and should stimulate the comparative worldliness and lukewarmness of the churches, that had first sent to them the missionary and the Bible.—[Dr. W. R. Williams.

## AFRICA; MISSION NEAR THE EQUATOR.

*The people willing to receive Missionaries.*

The Rev. J. L. Mackey, of the American Presbyterian Church, writing on the 29th of August, mentions the following incidents. They show the desire of the natives to have missionaries at their towns. Speaking of spending a night in a town near the mouth of the River Muni, Mr Mackey says:

We requested that in the morning the King would have his head-men and all the people come together, so that we could talk to them and tell them what we came to the country and to the town for. We met in the morning, a very full house; I spoke to them through an interpreter who accompanied us. I spoke of the word of God which he has revealed, and of some of the primary truths of christianity; and told the people that we were God's ministers, and in obedience to his command we wished to carry those truths to those who did not know them; that we were now looking for a place in which we could remain, and teach the people about God and his will to men. When my remarks were concluded, I asked the people what they thought of these things, and whether they would like to be taught the truths of God's word? One of the old men replied that they were like men who were lost far in the "bush" and in darkness, unable to find their way out. A kind friend meets them and offers to conduct them home. Would not they gladly receive such a friend? He added, that they were in darkness; we offered to teach them the truth, and they would gladly receive us.