

trophies of redeeming grace! Within nine short weeks, says our missionary, "the American flag was raised over Hawaii, the Ladrões, and the Philippines, and a pathway blazed through the midst of the Pacific from America close to the borders of China. Over this viewless highway not only the commerce of the nation may pass unchallenged and free, but the swift messengers of salvation also, the host of them that preach glad tidings and build the everlasting kingdom of our God.

No man can forecast the future or measure the full purpose of the Almighty, and it would be presumption to say what shape political events may take, but it is not presumption for us as Christians, and as members of the Ladies' Foreign Missionary Society, to mark the steps of our heavenly Master, and obey His last command and carry the blessed gospel in the wake of our flag to the islands of the sea, upon whose shores the light is breaking, and to whom the day of redemption draws nigh.

LETTERS FROM THE FIELD.

AFRICA.

AN EARNEST APPEAL FROM AFRICA.

DR. SNYDER.

We feel safe in making the assertion that no Mission Field has ever been so fruitful in results in so short a time as this part of Africa now under the care of our Assembly. In a little more than two years, by the grace of God, over two hundred souls have been reclaimed for Jesus.

The working force here at Luebo, and vicinity, has never consisted of more than nine missionaries. While truly believing that "there is no restraint to the Lord to save by many or by few," it is the concensus of opinion of those now here that the force of workers should never be less than nine, but on the contrary that there is work for as many more.

In view of this we earnestly call your attention to the following facts:

The climate of Africa, and its effect on the health of the missionaries, makes it necessary that at stated periods some of them must return to the home land to recuperate.

In consequence of this fact Mrs. Sheppard has gone to America.

Mr. Verner returns this year for needed rest and renewed health.

Others of our Mission have remained beyond the time considered, by good authorities on the matter, to be safe, and may *have* to leave for home at no distant date.

There is very grave danger then that at any time our force may be reduced to *two or three workers!* People starving for the Bread of Life the Bread at hand, but *too few* to distribute it!

Another fact, perhaps not appreciated by the church at home, is that we are so far from the base of supplies that unless this is taken in consideration, and provided for, much valuable time may be lost between the departure of the missionary and the arrival of his substitute. Our latest news from those in charge of this work, in the home land, is to the effect that "None are offering for Africa."

This means that the work here is in great danger of coming to a standstill!

Our needs cannot be met by the policy of keeping missionaries here up to the last possible day of good health;

pushed too far, death intervenes and the worn-out missionary goes to his long home to return no more.

There should be at least five men and women in the home land at this moment ready to come here at the first call; there should be at least two on the way here *now*.

These are facts which we wish to place before the church for her consideration.

We feel that a very grave responsibility rests on the church and calls for the deepest thought and most earnest prayers. We earnestly pray that the church will arise to meet her responsibility in this matter. Shall Ethiopia stretch out her arms in vain?

LUEBO, AFRICA, NOV. 17, 1898.

A CRY OF ALARM FROM AFRICA.

MR. MORRISON.

It is the universal opinion of traders, State officials, and other missionary societies, to say nothing of our own sad experience in the past, that it is unwise, for consideration of health, for one reared in the temperate zones to remain in the Congo climate, for the first time out, a longer period than three years on an average. The second time out the chances are that one can remain much longer. In view of this fact, over a year ago the Executive Committee of Foreign Missions was informed by our mission that in the natural course of events it would be necessary within a few months, in all probability, for some of our little force to go home for needed recuperation. We gave this warning in due time, so that the necessary measures could be taken at once for furnishing the needed reliefs, and thus preventing the endangering of life by a too

protracted lingering here after health has failed.

Up to this time the only response received has been to the effect that **not** only need we expect no reinforcements, but we are instructed not to leave the field at the end of three years unless health absolutely demands it. The result, in the meantime, has been that Mrs. Sheppard has already gone home, Mr. Verner expects to leave by the next boat. Miss Lillian Thomas, who has been here over four years, has not been in good health for some months, and may have to go any time; the same may be said of Miss Maria Fearing and Mr. Hawkins, who is now in his fifth year, may be wishing to go within a twelve month. So we are brought face to face with the fact that one year or less from now may find us with only four missionaries on the field.

This is a gloomy outlook which threatens us. Is it possible that our Church is going to allow the African Mission to die? Shall the labors of Lapsley, Mrs. Adamson, and Mrs. Snyder come to naught? Shall the over 200 young converts here be left in this midnight darkness with no spiritual guides? We believe that as soon as the Church is made acquainted with these facts the answer will be, "No."

We know of several who have been waiting for months to be sent, and we have strained our eyes in vain toward the homeland. Whenever we have noted in THE MISSIONARY the account of recruits going to China and elsewhere, we have almost envied these fields this good fortune. We have pictured to our minds China with her sixty-six missionaries from our church, and a native membership of 370—one missionary to five and one-half members, as compared with our little band of eleven missionaries and 169 native