## WEST AFRICA.

A letter from Rev. A. Bushnell, missionary of the American Board, in the Evangelist, gives an encouraging account of the Gaboon mission, and of the prospects of Christianity in West Africa. As to his own mission Mr. B. says:—

The Gaboon is beginning to wear much the appearance of a civilized place. It is now a French colony and important naval station, with generally from six to twelve vessels, including a steam frigate and smaller steamers, at anchor in the river; and considerable building and other improvements are being carried on at the Plateau, about two miles and a half below our station. Foreign commerce is also rapidly increasing, almost entirely absorbing the attention of the M'pongwe people, who naturally have a passion for trade, and are slow to engage in any other employment. Time will show what the influence of this increase of foreign power and trade will be upon the people in this part of Africa. Those in authority are friendly to us, and interpose no obstacles to the progress of our labors; and the Jesuit mission, three miles and a half from us, is mostly local in its efforts and influence, and manifests no open hostility to

The missious generally on this part of the coast are in a flourishing condition, and in the absence of any powerful revivals, there have been tokens of good in several places. Here at Gaboon we have free access to all, both foreigners and natives, and the gospel is listened to with respectful attention, and I trust with good results. There are now ten or twelve candidates for admission to the Church, and a few others profess to be seeking the pearl of great price. At Corisco, forty miles North of us, the work of the Lord is advancing.

## THE HUMAN SACRIFICES IN WESTERN AFRICA.

The Wesleyan Missionary Notices for December report that further intelligence has been received from the West Coast of Africa:—

Mr. Bernasko writes from Whydah that he left for Abomey on the 11th of July, and arrived in that blood-stained capital on the 14th. Fourteen days afterwards the Grand Funeral Custom commenced; about fifty human beings having been sacrificed during this period of preparation. The paths leading from Abomey were all stopped, and exit was impossible during the continuance of the custom; and Mr. Bernasko believes that a thousand lives were then offered up. Even this enormous waste of life has not sufficed to appease the demon of superstition. The close of the Funeral Custom is adjourned to the period of the next annual custom. . . It is matter for thankfulness that Mr. Bernasko has returned in safety to his former habitation, and remains undisturbed in the King's dominions, though he had been threatened with ejectment. The daring attempts at the revival of the slave-trade at Whydah, of which recent accounts make mention (no less than twelve hundred slaves having been shipped there in a screw-steamer during the last month, and got clear off for Cuba,) will greatly increase the difficulty and peril of his position, and furnish an additional reason for commending him and his work anew to the Almighty Keeper of Israel.

LETTER OF REMONSTRANCE TO THE KING OF DAHOMEY.

The following letter has been addressed to the King by the African-Aid Society.

MAJESTY BADAHUNG,-The great English nation is very sad. It does not like your ways. They are not good. They are very bad. You might be a great king. But what you do will not make you a great king. You do very much harm for a very little money. To be a great king. you should do much good, and make it give you a great deal of money. You make war, that you might take slaves and sell them. And a great many of your own people are killed. This is very bad. We are told you sold 10,000 last year. And what did you get? 50,000 dollars. How many bad things have been thus done for so little money? You are the king of a great many people. You may make much money, and your people too. Do not take them to war, where a great many die. But say to them, "Get cotton-bring me cotton." Say to them, "We are brave-they all know it—they are all afraid of us—we have made great war—we have taken a great many slaves. Now we will get rich—we must make dollars-for we must grow cotton; if we do not, Abbeokuta will have a great many more dollars than we can get-they grow cotton there and get dollars for it. It is not hard to grow cotton—it is easy to get—you can make it grow everywhere. 150,000 of you call me your king. I am your king. I must have one dollar's worth of cotton every year from every one of my people. My chiefs, you will look to it; the chief who has 1,000 people will make them bring to Whydah 1,000 dollars' worth of cotton. All the rest you grow you can bring and sell for yourselves. And so you may all get rich—you may all get many dollars.

Majesty Badahung,—Do you not know what the traders buy slaves of you for? To grow cotton and sugar. You can grow it much better than in those countries where they take the slaves to. It is much better in Dahomey land. We will buy all the cotton of you at Whydah. You shall not be cheated. It is not a wise king to have many of his people killed every year, when they would make so much money for him. And only wise kings are great kings. If you were a wise king you would say: "All this part of the coast is mine—not one more slave shall be sold here. I will not sell those I have got. I will send to where I took them from, and will say; "I have got so many of your people; they are my slaves; but I will send them back to you, if you will send me 100lbs. of clean cotton for every one; then they shall go back to their wives and husbands, to their mothers and fathers. I and my people are brave; you know we do not fear; but we will not make war now; we want to get rich, so we will grow cotton for the great English people."

Majesty Badahung,—For every 100lbs. of good clean cotton, we will give you, at Whydah, eight dollars. In this way you will be a great king. You will be more rich than any other king in Africa. You would get now near 200,000 dollars a-year; we would show you how this may soon be 400,000 dollars, and in a short time 1,000,000 dollars a-year. All your people will be rich—you will be a very rich and a very great people, and all round they will say, "There is no king so wise, or so good, or great a king as his Most Excellent Majesty Badahung, the King of Dahomey, who will not let the men and women of Africa be sent over the sea as slaves; but who makes his people rich, and makes them happy; who does not let them be killed in wars, so that every year they are more and more, and they will all grow cotton. The people of Dahomey are happy—they have a great and a good king—he is rich, and strong—we will have his Majesty Badahung for our king, that we may be rich and happy."

MAJESTY BADAHUNG,—Then the great English people will love you. And to show you how glad they are to see you a wise, and a good, and

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