



AN OBJECT LESSON AT COLWYN BAY.

By Our Own Charity Commissioner.

“AFRICA for the Africans” has been a cry constantly reiterated and, although it does not seem as though the march of European civilisation is likely to leave much room for the native races in the southern part of that vast Continent, yet the tropical nature of the larger part of it makes its civilisation and advancement dependent upon the civilisation and advancement of the black races.

The man who, of all others, was a competent judge, loved and trusted the negroes and believed in their capacity. That was David Livingstone, who lived and died for the benighted land to which, less than half a century after his death, the eyes of the whole civilised world are turned.

What is Christianity doing or about to do for this vast tract of fallow land

lying ready for the “spade work” of the servants of the King? The answer will be, undoubtedly, that much is being done, that the spirit of Livingstone and of his Divine Master is a splendid living force still, and that there are great tracts in Africa irradiated with gospel light, which erstwhile lay in the valley of the shadow of death.

True, gloriously true, but so much remains to be done that the imagination almost staggers at its vastness. “Africa for Christ” as well as for the Africans is still but a glorious dream, yet, thank God, it is a dream that can and will come true. But why should not Africa be evangelised by its own people? The difficulties that beset the paths of Europeans are sometimes almost insurmountable, and the “white man’s grave” has



Photo Mr. Lettsome, Llangollen.



REV. M. T. G. LAWSON,
Photo J. W. Thomas.

Local Secretary for the African Institute at Sierra Leone. He has an employment under the Government, and also carries on a mission in the same town. He preaches every Sunday to a good congregation, and has great faith in the scheme of the African Institute.

passed into a proverb. It is a glorious thing to die for Christ, doubtless, but if men of God can be raised out of the land itself, immune to the deadly miasma of its forests and swamps, why should God's workmen die, when they might live to carry the gospel to places equally dark though not equally deadly?

This was the thought that struck a Welsh missionary on the Congo some twenty years ago, when, sick and seemingly dying, he lay in his tent, following the movements of two African lads whom he had redeemed from a state of slavery and who were now, in their turn, his devoted slaves in Christ. While thus lying, and rejoicing in the loving ministrations of his two little protégés, God sent a thought into his brain. "The best missionaries for Africa are Africans. Train converts in England, and send them out fitted to teach others as they themselves have been taught." Here was he on his back, in a far country, unable practically to move or

speak, the heathen in thousands about him, his heart yearning with desire to do them good, and yet, owing to the deadly climate, as unable to do so as if he had been an inhabitant of the moon. Could this indeed be God's plan for the salvation of equatorial Africa? He could scarcely believe it, and thus he was forced to the logical conclusion already recorded.

When Mr. Hughes was at home, he lived at Colwyn Bay, a charming seaside resort in North Wales, almost under the shadow of the Great Orme. Thither he determined to return to seek the health which he could never hope to regain among the swamps of Africa. Would he ever see "Africa's sunny fountains"—strange misnomer—again? That was in the hands of God. That he longed to do so goes without saying, for, unless he or someone else preached the gospel to these people, they must inevitably die in darkness. The young lads who had been his devoted nurses again unconsciously solved the problem for him, for they refused to leave him, and so he carried them with him to his home at Colwyn Bay. These little



Photo] SOME OF THE PRINTING STAFF. [T. J. Edwards.

Africans, quickly adapting themselves to their new life, became the pioneer students of the African Institute, of which Mr. Hughes since that day has been the devoted head.

It was a blessed day for West Africa when the Almighty took His work away from Mr. Hughes, and sent him home disappointed, sick, and ready to die; for the work has, indeed, been gloriously blest. It is now incorporated, and established on a permanent, workable, and business-like basis. There is nothing namby-pamby or sentimental about the work of the African Institute. It catches the youths young, and makes men of them in every sense of the word. Every student is thoroughly taught a trade or profession and, at the end of his term at the Institute, he returns to his home to preach the gospel to his own people in their own tongue, meanwhile supporting himself by means of his trade, without costing any Missionary Society a single penny.

The success of many of the returned students has been most remarkable. One of them, Joseph



REV. W. HUGHES, F.R.G.S.,
Director and Founder of the African Institute.
Photo T. J. Edwards.

Burnley, is in charge of a missionary station in Amba Bay. Another, Frank Teva, has laboured for years successfully on the Upper Congo, and is now established at N'Tomba. A third has established a printing office at Sierra Leone, and yet another has established one in Liberia, from which he issues a monthly religious paper. These, and many others, are not only working with their own hands but are preaching the gospel to people whose manner of life and mode of thought they thoroughly and intimately understand.

The Institute retains touch with the native workers along the West Coast from the Gambia to St. Paul de Loanda, and in several districts auxiliary committees have been formed who choose students for the Institute whenever a fresh relay is required, and to

Dr. Cole, founder of the Gospel Banner Mission, Sierra Leone. He carries on his practice as a medical man, preaches the Gospel and works this mission. He visited the African Institute a few years ago, and is a member of the Local Committee at Sierra Leone. Sir Samuel Lewis is Chairman of the Committee, and was the first African native to be knighted by our late Queen.



Photo J. W. Thomas.



Photo J. W. Thomas.

ERNESTINA FRANCIS,

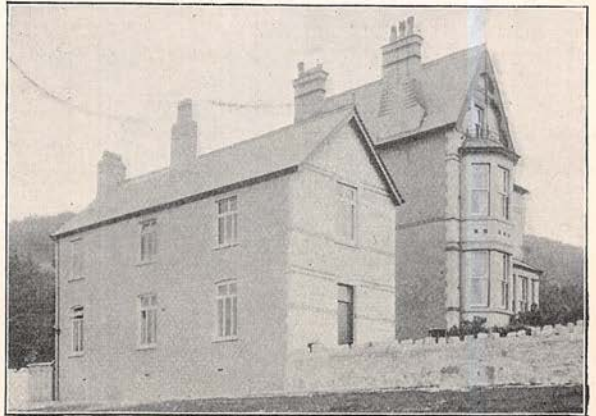
Who has been in the Institute for some years. She is most diligent with her lessons, and has an earnest purpose of returning to Africa to reach her sex. She recently passed successfully the College of Preceptors Exam.

train, in their turn, their less fortunate brothers, and carrying the teachings of the Bible with them to the bush where their work will lie. I am sure that in the near future this country will have to recognise you and your work in a way yet unknown to them. May God grant it so."

An old student, Frank Teva Clark, who has been working for nearly ten years at N'Tomba, on the Upper Congo, writes: "I am staying at I'Koko just now. We are to establish another mission station soon at I'Tuta, which is by the lake, almost a day's travel from I'Koko. The people are crying for me to go and live with them, and I shall go there in a few weeks and begin to build a house. They are so anxious for me to go there that they will cut all the sticks and get anything else that I shall need for building the house. All the time I have been here I have been going round the lake preaching to the people. I bought an accordion which I take with me when I go out preaching, and play it to the people, many of whom have never seen one. When I play it almost the whole town come out to see what the noise is, and then we preach to them. Our work at I'Koko is very successful. We have a big school with about two hundred and fifty children attending it. We have, too, over thirty-five members in the church, and many

whose care they are returned on the expiration of their term. Three students have, in fact, just arrived who were recommended by the Gold Coast Committee, and three more are to arrive shortly from the same district.

Mr. Asaam, who is a native barrister and general secretary of this Committee on the Gold Coast, writing to Mr. Hughes, says: "It seems to me that your Institute is destined to play a most important part in the progress of this continent, though as yet hardly recognised by those in authority. I already see a band of young, sturdy men from here, trained by you, come back to



SIDE VIEW OF THE AFRICAN INSTITUTE BUILDINGS AT COLWYN BAY.

of the bigger boys are married and are building good clay houses for themselves. There is plenty of other work which I cannot now mention to you, as it is nearly time for Sunday school, and after that we shall go to the town and hold services among the people."

Think of this on the Upper Congo! It seems but yesterday to some of us who are getting into middle life, since Stanley electrified the world by his account of his adventurous voyage down the Lualaba and the Congo into the Southern Atlantic, and here we have talk of Sunday School and Church and good houses! Surely the day of God is coming in Africa and no small factor in its dawn will be the silent unselfish work done by Mr. Hughes in the African Colony in North Wales.

Another student writes a joyous letter in which he speaks of many conversions and a great baptism: "I wish you were here to see the procession marching," he says, "from the chapel to the river N'Jembe, a number of candidates all arrayed in white and singing as they went, 'Glory to God in the Highest, and on earth, peace, goodwill towards men.' Pray for us that they who teach and those who learn may become steadfast and bear a goodly witness for the Master."

But, alas, this quiet work in an eminently practical direction is much in



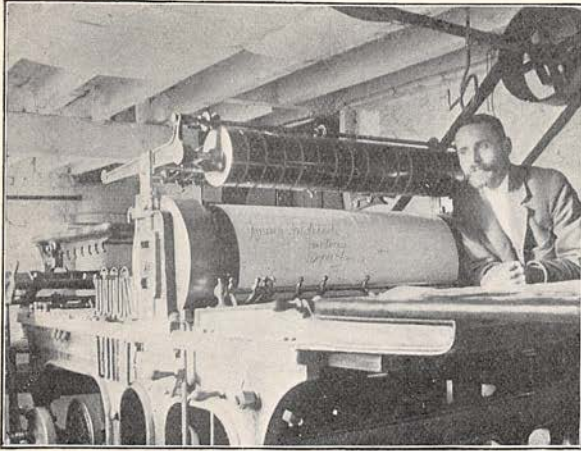
ONE OF THE PATRONS, PRINCE ADEMUYIWA,
Who visited the Institute some years ago.
Photo R. M. Evans, Rhyl.



GOSPEL BANNER HALL, MISSION TO HEATHENS, SIERRA LEONE.
REV. J. H. COLE, SUPERINTENDENT.

need of help. Perhaps it is that Christians do not know of it, although it is unique in this country. The Institute has in fact been compelled to greatly reduce its expenditure and the number of its students lately, but Mr. Hughes hopes, nevertheless, to add immediately another fifteen to their number, in the simple trust that God, whose work it is, will inspire the hearts of his people not to let the work languish.

There have been objections raised against the



CORNER OF THE PRINTING DEPARTMENT, AFRICAN INSTITUTE.

Photo B. Hockey, Colwyn Bay.

wisdom of bringing promising young Africans from their own country to England and educating them, but everything depends on the manner of doing it. True education is always good, whether for white or black. It is the shoddy kind that tends to arrogance and pride. Can it be wrong to remove these promising young people from their old practices, superstitions, and temptations, and surround them with the best and sweetest influences this highly-favoured Christian land can offer? To make a so-called converted African a sort of spiritual mountebank is a most reprehensible practice—and it has been done too often—but any one who will take the trouble to inquire into the work at Colwyn Bay will be more than satisfied that so far from harm accruing to the students, the spiritual, mental, and industrial training is an unspeakable blessing to them.

Sir Henry M. Stanley is not a sentimentalist by any means, neither has he been accused of speaking without duly weighing his words, yet he writes: "In my opinion the Congo Training Institute is invaluable for the Congo Basin, and I have always felt that Mr. Hughes was moving on very sound lines and deserved the most zealous support. You are perfectly welcome to make any use you see fit of any remarks I may have made by speech or letter in favour of your work."

In conclusion, here is a touching letter from Chester: "Enclosed please find the sum of £2 1s. 8d. (one thousand half pence) in postal orders and stamps. We should like

you to know that this contribution to the funds of the African Institute from the Chester City Mission, is the outcome of a little girl's voluntary gift of one half-penny towards the spread of the gospel in Africa."

We think this little incident worth recording as it may induce other little ones all over the land to go and do likewise. Here is a chance of doing something for Jesus. Mr. Hughes has had a Twentieth Century Certificate published, with the name of the collector, motto, texts, &c., and this will be presented, together with the photograph of the students, which we reproduce on this page, to all who collect ten shillings and upwards on one of the collecting cards which Mr. Hughes is ready and willing, nay, anxious to send to anyone who is willing to assist one of the most hopeful causes in Britain.



Photo Walter Chadwick

PRESENT STUDENTS AT THE INSTITUTE.

[Ashton-under-Lyne.]