

That English soldiers offered the blacks money for the heads of Germans is proved beyond doubt by a deposition made by the American missionary Valentine Wolff. A reward up to 50 shillings was placed by the British government on the head of every German.

"As the result of this," says Reverend Wolff, "sailor Nickstadt and Quartermaster Schlichting, both belonging to the steamer 'Kamerun' lying in the harbor of Duala, were attacked and murdered by the natives. Nickstadt was drowned and Schlichting hewn to pieces with bush knives."

Rev. Director Stark sent a telegram to missionary Chr. Gehr, at Calw, Württemberg, requesting confirmation of this statement by wire, and received the following reply:

"Stark pressverband für Deutschland evanpresse berlinsteglitz.

"I confirm that the merchants Erich Student and Nikolai, also seaman Fischer were fearfully mauled by the natives on the Sanaga and that Nickstadt was drowned and Schlichting murdered. Merchant Student saw a circular according to which 50 shillings were set on the head of every German by the English. Missionary Chr. Gehr."

"After comparison I attest that this answer has not been garbled.

(Signed) Chr. Gehr, Missionary."

OUR THERMOMETER.

BY THE EDITOR.

It is a peculiar phenomenon in history that the different nations have measured temperature by thermometers invented by men not of their own nationality, and the explanation of this also throws light on the mental make-up of the respective peoples. The English, most conservative of all, cling to the first method of measurement and still measure temperature by the thermometer as first used by its inventor, a German professor of physics at Königsberg. Fahrenheit placed zero at the temperature of the very coldest day he had experienced in his own city of Königsberg, and this zero is still the zero for every English mind. The degrees in which he measured were accidental, and the freezing point fell on the degree 32. His invention was practical, and so the English government introduced it into the navy for official measurement of temperature. This settled the question, and no change has occurred down to the present day, for if the English mind accepts one method of action it will stick to it until the end of time. The English have clung to the Fahrenheit scale although there are some very obvious criticisms to be made concerning it. The zero point is purely accidental, and the temperature-points which are of special importance in the field of natural phenomena fall on integral degrees, these points being distributed over the scale in the haphazard fashion characteristic of the Fahrenheit system. The two temperature-points of greatest significance for life on this earth are certainly the freezing-point of water and the point at which water boils under normal conditions. It was a Frenchman, Réaumur by name, who had the practical sense to adopt as his basal temperatures the freezing-point and the boiling-point of water. He called the freezing-point zero and fixed the boiling-point at 80 degrees. As soon as his obviously well-designed reform was made, Germany adopted his system and it was soon in general use in that country.

But there is one point in Réaumur's system which is not practical. He divided the most important portion of his thermometer-scale into 80 degrees,

while at present the decimal system is used in all forms of measurement. For example, the French divided their coins—the unit being the franc—into centimes or hundredth parts of the franc, and in like manner the Americans divided the dollar into cents. In 1871 the Germans followed suit by establishing the mark as a unit and dividing it into one hundred pfennigs, and the Austrians likewise divided their monetary unit, the crown, into one hundred hellers.

About 1742 a Dane by the name of Celsius proposed that Réaumur's 80 degrees be replaced by 100 degrees, and the French, who are always prone to accept the most recent method and do not hesitate to change old systems, accepted it at once, and so for a long time the English, in their more conservative habit, followed the earlier German system, the Fahrenheit; the Germans followed the French method; and the French followed the Danish method, the most recent innovation.

There is no doubt that to Fahrenheit belongs the honor of having invented the thermometer; all the essentials of temperature measurement were invented by him, and we shall never forget that he was the pioneer in this field. The later changes are insignificant as far as the essential characteristics of the invention are concerned, though they are undoubtedly improvements, and it is strange that Fahrenheit himself did not anticipate them. If his attention had been called to them he would no doubt have accepted them at once. But he was a professor and a learned man who was out of touch with practical life. His invention was before the general introduction of the decimal system in other fields of measurement, and for scientific purposes it is quite indifferent where the zero is placed. But we must recognize that the improvements introduced by Réaumur and Celsius make the thermometer much simpler and ought to be introduced without quibbling.

We Americans, being very strongly under the influence of English traditions, follow the English Fahrenheit fashion, and it has remained our system to the present day. That America has so long followed the English conservatism is only a sign of our lack of independence. In scientific circles the centigrade system has been in general use for quite a long while. It is time that the United States took the step now being advocated by Mr. Albert Johnson, who is fathering a bill in Congress having for its object the replacement of the Fahrenheit scale of temperature in United States government publications by the Centigrade scale. There is not the slightest doubt that it will ultimately be accepted. If it is not adopted now it will be in the near future, and the rising generation will feel ashamed that we have been so slow in advancing along the path of unequivocal progress.

MR. MANGASARIAN MISUNDERSTANDS.

Under the caption "God and the War," Mr. M. M. Mangasarian, the lecturer of the Independent Religious Society, published the following comments (December 6, 1915):

"Question. What are the foremost Christian nations doing at this moment?

"Answer. They are engaged in annihilating one another.

"Q. Whose help are they invoking in this work of mutual destruction?

"A. The help of God.