

IN GERMAN GAOLS.

Everyone should read "In German Gaols," by the Rev. Ernest F. Spanton of the Universities' Mission to Central Africa—the gaols being those in East Africa during the war. Originally published in 1917 by the S.P.C.K.—to which society we are indebted for our illustration on this page—it was quickly sold out, but has now been republished by the Universities' Mission to Central Africa, 9, Dartmouth Street, Westminster, S.W., at a price which brings it within reach of all.

In his preface to the second edition, Canon Travers shows from statements collected by Mr. Spanton from some of the more educated natives, how the purpose of the Germans in governing the country was to treat the people as if they were not living creatures like themselves, but rather as dogs, brute beasts, and slaves. One native says, "They have no pity towards the people of the land; they regard them as baboons, not as men, only as the images of men." Canon Travers continues, "Dogs! brute beasts! baboons! it is plain that this offence against the human nature of the native is the iron which has entered deepest into the native soul. The insult is bitterly felt. It outrages the growing self-respect of the black man. And no doubt this is the worst of the many crimes of the Germans. Bad as it is to oppress and torture a people, it is infinitely crueller and more odious to attempt to destroy a nation's soul."

Of course the usual excuses were made for ill-treatment. Thus Mr. Spanton writes: "The allowance which the Government had hitherto paid to the contractor for our food was reduced, and the result was, of course, what once felt; a lowering of quality and of quantity immediately followed, and was explained to us to be intended as reprisals for the ill-treatment and under-feeding of German prisoners in England. This explanation might, perhaps, have afforded us more satisfaction if we had been able to bring ourselves to believe it; but as we were certain that it was altogether untrue, it only served to add insult to injury, which is probably what it was intended to do."

"Here at Kilimatrude," writes Mr. Spanton, "we had some practical experiences of the gentle-

man who had caused so much discussion here at home—the enemy alien who has for his own purposes become a naturalised Britisher.

"We had among us a German who many years before had taken out naturalisation papers in South Africa, and so had become a British subject 'for business purposes only' as he was



TWO OF THE YOUNGEST PRISONERS.

careful, on every conceivable opportunity to inform the German guards; he was violently anti-English, which, after all, was only natural, for 'once a German always a German,' is a rule which admits of very few (if any) exceptions, and this we could have easily forgiven him; but his spying proclivities were not so easily pardoned.

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