

MISSION FIELD.

MADRAS JUBILEE RETROSPECTS—Continued.

THE S.P.G. IN TINNEVELLY.

A Girls' Boarding School was commenced at Idaiyangudi by Mrs. Caldwell in 1844, followed by similar schools in other places; she then also introduced lace-making amongst the women; a branch of industry which proved a great success, and is carried on to the present day. This has provided suitable employment for hundreds of native women, especially widows. The Metropolitan of India, Bishop Wilson, visited Tinnevely in 1841—42.

In 1877 Bishop Caldwell, who had been consecrated at Calcutta as assistant to the Bishop of Madras, was commissioned to supervise the S.P.G. Missions in Tinnevely and Ramnad. The number of native clergy under him is 41, of whom 15 deacons and one priest were ordained by him in one day, the 19th December, 1886. The number of European Missionaries is three. The first native ordained was in 1854. In 1877 Southern India was visited by the most terrible famine it has yet known, and in that and the following year there were many accessions to the Christian fold, through gratitude for the help the starving poor received from benevolent Christians. Much of the increase which has taken place, as already mentioned, during Queen Victoria's reign was from this cause. Many of the more ignorant people of course relapsed, but many more remained. Church Councils have now been established in every district, and are doing a good work in the organisation and consolidation of the Mission. In 1880 the large and beautiful church at Idaiyangudi was opened for Divine service, and in 1885 another similar church was opened at Mudalur. Normal schools, both for boys and girls, have been established, and the whole Mission will soon be well supplied with duly trained teachers. Mission Dispensaries have also been established, and every station has now its Post-Office.

The S.P.G. Missions in Tinnevely, including Ramnad, are divided into eleven districts, each of which is under the superintendence of a European Missionary or native clergyman of superior attainments. To begin with the northern districts in Tinnevely. There are two of these, Puthamputtur and Nagalapuram, both under the superintendence of Bishop Caldwell. Puthamputtur comprises five pastorates, and Nagalapuram six, each of which is under a native clergyman. Tuticorin town is under the Rev. D. Samuel, B.D., native Chaplain both to the Bishop of Madras and Bishop Caldwell. Pudukottai and Saverpuram are under the care of the Rev. J. A. Sharrock, with three native clergymen to assist him. As Principal of the College, he has spiritual charge of the College also, which, with its affiliated schools, numbers 651 pupils Idaiyangudi, with its six pastorates, and Rad-a-

puram, with three, are under the care of Bishop Caldwell, who residence is divided between Idaseiyangudi and Tuticorin. The class of 27 candidates for ordination lately held by Bishop Caldwell for three months was held at Idaiyangudi. Sixteen of those candidates were accepted by the Madras Committee and ordained. The ordination of eleven was postponed. The district of Nazareth is under the care of the Rev. A. Margoschis, with three pastorates attached to Nazareth itself, and the districts of Mudalur and Christianagram were lately placed under Mr. Margoschis' care, with four native clergy. There are Orphanages at Nazareth both for boys and girls, in connection with which there are industrial schools. Ramnad follows Tinnevely, with its one European Missionary in charge, assisted by eight natives. It has its orphanages for boys and girls, and its industrial schools, and also a printing press. The last even de-erving mention is the enthusiasm with which the Jubilee of the Queen-Emress was observed in every town and village in Tinnevely. The S.P.G. Christians in Tinnevely sent a telegram of greeting to the Queen.

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