

ponents of Falk's ecclesiastical policy. The people, as a whole, certainly regret the resignation of the most esteemed of our Ministers, and the national schools in particular, lose in Falk their most faithful protector and patron.

The Teacher's Convention which took place at Braunschweig, the middle of June, was a strong proof that Falk's administration did not tend towards the "demoralization and godlessness" of the Nation. The meeting composed of 1100 teachers, earnestly engaged in the discussion of means to oppose the frivolity of the age, and to preserve the Religion of the people. This Convention, as regards its members and their conclusions, was more satisfactory than the subsequent Berlin Pastoral Conference, which seems to have arrived at no results of importance.

The melancholy death of Prince Napoleon has aroused a certain sympathy in German circles. I say a certain sympathy, for we cannot speak of profound compassion, either for one bearing the name of Napoleon, or even for the mother who has now to experience the terrible sorrow which she, as the evil genius of her weak husband, was the means of drawing down on thousands of German women.

People were, however, chivalrous enough to wish that the Imperial Scion had met a more glorious death than that from the assegais of the Zulus.

The conduct of Lt. Carey, as represented, has met with general reprobation. The more so from the great respect entertained for the personal courage of the English soldier.

The Emperor is now at Ems, to recruit his health.

Sad to say our summer has not yet arrived, and the heavy rains have dissipated the hopes of an abundant harvest.

PETER HOBING.

### Foreign Missions.

#### AFRICA.

##### THE DIOCESE OF ST. HELENA.

THREE rocky islands, hundreds of miles apart from each other, in the waters of the South Atlantic Ocean, form the Diocese of St. Helena. The residence of a Bishop in this remote and isolated part of the world may to some appear unnecessary, but in fact it is the element of strength where everything else is weak. "The Bishop," as a late Report of the S. P. G. truly states, "is a parish priest as well as Bishop; and, while by his office he gives coherence to what would otherwise be a dispirited and scattered flock, he is doing, day by day, the work which would have to be done by a priest, if there were no resident Bishop."

The largest of the three islands is St. Helena, with its associations of fallen greatness in the person of the ex-Emperor Napoleon, whose billiard-room was for some time used as a place of public worship by the residents at Longwood. St. Helena has 6,000 inhabitants, 5,200 of whom belong to the Church of England, 290 are Communicants. There are three clergymen. Bishop Grey visited the Island in 1848 (see CHURCH GUARDIAN, April 24th), but as he could not afford the time and money to return often, St. Helena was detached from the See of

Capetown, and with Ascension Island and Tristram d'Acunha, constitutes the Diocese of St. Helena, of which Dr. Piers Claughton was consecrated Bishop in 1859. He was translated to the See of Columbo in 1862, and was succeeded by Dr. T. E. Welby, the present Bishop.

The most interesting Church work in St. Helena is in connection with the Freed Slaves. When Bishop Claughton arrived, he found that 3,000 were being annually landed from the captured slave ships. As vessels were not always ready to remove them, the Government maintained an institution for their reception, costing \$40,000 annually, but no chaplain, or even catechist was connected with it. The Bishop immediately set to work to remedy this state of things. With one of his clergy, he devoted himself to the instruction of these poor negroes. In a dreary gorge, called "Rupert's Valley," he and his interpreter sat under the scanty shade of the bamboo trees, which grow here and there in a stunted fashion, surrounded by a circle of scholars. Sickness and disease had made many of them listless, but the majority had eager, attentive looks as their instruction proceeded. The Bishop was able, after due preparation, to baptize 250 of these coloured people who were about to leave for the West Indies as free labourers. The work thus commenced has been continued by Bishop Welby, and a steady stream of Christian negroes is yearly setting forth to other lands, each of whom may be a missionary to his brethren.

The Rev. Thomas Goodwin was one of the most faithful labourers among the liberated Africans. He began his work among them as a Catechist, and was ordained in 1870. His account of his weekly cottage lectures among them is most interesting. He writes:—"The readiness with which the Africans have given the use of their cottages, has been quite gratifying; for in doing this, they have in most instances put themselves to considerable inconvenience. They have but one, or at the most, two rooms, and they have to remove the whole of their furniture, beds, &c., to give as much space as possible. When I arrive, I find them orderly arranged, and seated. Their attention and behaviour is all that can be desired."

The opening of the Suez Canal had a most disastrous effect upon St. Helena, for its prosperity depended mainly on the number of ships touching at the Island. There was great poverty amongst all classes, and many of the coloured people emigrated to the main land. In 1872, two hundred and sixty took advantage of the Government offer of a free passage to Sierra Leone. Before they left, there was an impressive service for them in St. John's Church, which was crowded. The Bishop made them an affectionate and earnest address.

Since then, the poverty has deepened. Year by year, fewer ships call at the island, and trade is much depressed. The condition of the Church is seriously affected by this decay of prosperity. Mr. Goodwin had to emigrate on account of the difficulty of supporting his large family. He accepted an appointment from Bishop Macrorie in Natal.

The last accounts from St. Helena speak of a fearful flood which occurred in the middle of the night, and partially

destroyed Jamestown. The Rev. P. F. Cadman writes:—"More than 20 houses were washed away, the inmates barely escaping with their lives, some almost without an article of clothing. Many persons were left homeless and destitute. Directly daylight appeared I got permission from the colonel commanding the troops to house the poor creatures in an empty barnack room, and he also kindly supplied me with rugs, &c., for them as a loan. I opened a subscription list, which was at once responded to, the amount of £23 15s. With this, together with donations of food and clothing, I was enabled to keep them until they could provide for themselves. Many of them were ill from fright and exposure to the night air without clothing."

Five hundred miles to the South of St. Helena is Ascension Island. It is the summit of an extinct volcano, and the general prospect is that of bare fields of black rocks, without a blade of green; at the back of the island there is a farm, a beautiful garden, and a large airy hospital, to which many of our sailors attacked with coast fever are brought. There is a chaplain connected with the Institution, and the little Church was consecrated by Bishop Claughton, on the Festival from which the Island takes its name.

The lonely Island of Ascension is one of the most desolate places in which the members of our Church gather together for worship, and yet however isolated they may be, they are constantly reminded by every prayer that is offered, and by every rite that is celebrated that their worship is part of that chorus of praise and adoration which every hour ascends in the very words of the English Prayer Book from some part of the Globe.

An interesting account of Tristram d'Acunha adapted from "Under His Banner," must be deferred to our next number.

### RECENT INTELLIGENCE.

ON the afternoon of Sunday, February 2nd, at a time when the public mind was exercised in contemplating the disaster that had befallen our brave troops at Isandhlwana, seventeen natives belonging to St. Faith's were baptised at St. Cyprian's Church. They had for some weeks previous been very carefully taught by the Rev. H. F. Whittington on the subject of Holy Baptism. At half-past three in the afternoon the whole of the natives attending St. Faith's met at St. Cyprian's, the church in which services for the Europeans are held. The natives numbered between fifty and sixty, and most of them were well dressed. Divine service commenced by the Litany being offered in English by the Rev. Mr. Green, a son of the Very Rev. the Dean of Maritzburg, there being several white persons present. Then the natives sang a hymn in their own language, probably the first one that has been sung at St. Cyprian's. It begins 'Heaven, my home,' and is one of their favorites. After the hymn had been sung, the Rev. Messrs. Whittington, Green, and Blair, proceeded to the font, and the natives who were about to be baptised sitting before it on one set of seats, the congregation on another. Mrs. Blair, who named the two natives who were baptised in September, was also selected to name these converts, and having taken a convenient position before the font, the baptismal service was proceeded with in Zulu by the Rev. H. F. Whittington and the Rev. Mr. Blair, the words 'I baptise thee in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost,' being the only ones said in the

English language. At the words 'I receive this person,' being pronounced by Mr. Whittington, each convert was conducted by him a little way up the church where he knelt for the time, after which he resumed his seat. The service was over at about 5 o'clock, when the natives dispersed.—*Mission Field for June.*

### ENGLAND.

THE anniversary service of *St. Andrew Waterside Church Mission* was held on Monday, June 30. The service was at St. Margaret's Church, Westminster, in the morning, at which the Rev. R. T. Whittington, rector of Orsett, Essex, preached. At a meeting in the afternoon at the National Schoolrooms, Broad Sanctuary, Westminster, the Bishop of Gibraltar presided, supported by Mr. J. G. Talbot, M. P., and others. A letter was read from the First Lord of the Admiralty who sent £10, and spoke highly of the services rendered by the Mission. The report remarked, as to the improved thing of sailors, that 1,449 of them who arrived at Gravesend in 1878 had remitted home nearly £22,000 during eleven months of that year under the new scheme of the Board of Trade, and, in addition to this £95,000 was sent home from London alone in 1878. The gifts from sailors to the *Dreadnought Hospital* amounted to £1,000. In the United Kingdom £51,400 was deposited in seamen's saving-banks and £420,749 was forwarded by sailors in money orders in 1878. Notwithstanding that the past year had been exceptionally bad for shipowners, and sailors' wages had been unusually low, still upwards of 70,000 sailors had remitted money home during that period. During the year more than £2,000 worth of books had been received by the Mission as gifts and distributed free among sailors, fishermen, and emigrants, either in ships' libraries or in grants to foreign stations, hospitals, &c. The income of the society, though larger than any previous year, had been quite inadequate to meet the largely extended operations of the Mission, and no fresh work could be taken up until more funds were received, and the debts and liabilities paid off. It was resolved that a special appeal should be made, and that, as St. Andrew's Day this year would be free, the committee should endeavour to secure the help of the Church on that day by Offertories on behalf of the Mission. The incumbents of all the large dock parishes in the port of London, excepting St. Katharine's, which is otherwise provided for, were present, and expressed their great appreciation of the help received from the Mission in supplying them with stipends for Mission curates to work among their seafaring parishioners. Correspondence has been kept up with about fifty foreign stations, to many of which money grants have been made, to all grants of books. The Bishops of London, Chester, Exeter, and Lichfield have added their names to the list of patrons.

### UNITED STATES.

OHIO—*Cleveland*.—An interesting service of the Benediction of a Rectory, in connection with the Church of the Good Shepherd, was held on July 18th. After Evening Prayer in the Church, the Clergy and congregation went in procession to the Rectory, where a short service was held to invoke the Divine Blessing upon the house, and all who should hereafter dwell within its walls. Psalms 23, 91, 121, were read responsively, and appropriate Prayers and Collects said by the Rector, the Gloria in Excelsis and Benediction closing the service. After an address from Rev. Dr. Bolles, a general inspection of the Rectory ensued. This is carrying out the Bible principle of honouring every work by prayer and thanksgiving.

CONNECTICUT.—The contributions from 145 parishes reporting were, for the past Convention year, \$395,633.85.