

MISSION FIELD.

[From the *Spirit of Missions*, N. Y. for June.]

AN APOSTOLIC LIFE.

The Rev. Robert Clark, an intimate friend of Dr. French, late Bishop of Lahore, and for many years a co-worker with him, writes from Murree, India, an interesting letter concerning him, in which he thus refers to Bishop French's remarkable faithfulness and his self-sacrificing spirit:

How the missionary spirit burned within him is revealed to us by his own last actions—when, worn out by the toils of the Episcopate in the Punjab, which he could no longer bear, his heart turned at once, like the needle to the pole, to that direct missionary work amongst Mahomedans to which he had been called by Christ Himself, for which work he had lived and in which he died; when, more than sixty years old, he chose his sphere of Missionary labor, perhaps the most arduous and the most dangerous post that could be found on earth; and there, in solitary loneliness, without one single friend to stand at his side, he planted, and upheld till death, the banner of the Cross where it had never been planted before, within the tropics of Arabia, and in the hottest time of the year, amongst fanatical Arabian Muslims. With a little tent, which he had procured from India, and with two servants, one of whom to some extent should cook rice and soup, he was preparing to penetrate inland, when death interposed, calling him into the presence of his Master, to tell Him all he had done, and all he had taught, during an apostolic life of more than forty years.

In the present day, when men and women are beginning to go forth in large numbers as missionaries in heathen lands, we believe that very much may be learned from the life and from the death of Bishop French. To all of us in India his example of lowly self-denial, his unostentatious liberality, and his diligence in prayer and in study and in work, have produced very blessed results. When he first began his work in Agra he studied about sixteen hours a day. He taught in his school, he preached in the bazaars, he instructed inquirers for Baptism, he prepared catechists for ordination, he was engaged in writing books, at the same time that he was learning Arabic, Persian, Urdu, Sanscrit, and Hindi with munificence. Such excellence few can attain to, because few can safely follow in his steps in this respect, but all can copy his example of prayerful labor. When he spent his holidays in travels and in preaching excursions far and near, he showed us how to spend every hour of relaxation in the most profitable way. When he refused to possess even a very ordinary conveyance, because he thought that a missionary should go on foot, and declined to use any thing but the most common furniture for his house, he set us an example of self-abnegation, and showed us what, in his opinion, should be the attitude of the missionary before the

world. When he spent his earliest mornings with God, with his Hebrew Bible and Greek Testament before him, he often invited some friend to sit by him to share with him the rich thoughts which the Word of God suggested to his mind. We then saw what his spirit was which led him to attempt such almost superhuman efforts. When we listened to his prayers, which flowed forth from his heart, which often were interspersed with short collects, or parts of written prayers of the Church or individuals, we felt as we knelt with him in his study how grace worked mightily in him from above, and how his whole life was interpenetrated with that which was Divine.

BRIEF MENTION.

Bishop Walker of North Dakota, gives in his last annual address a most encouraging account of Church growth in that jurisdiction. Dickenson, Larimore, Crary and Mandan each have church buildings in progress, while Devils Lake, Valley City, Forest River and Walshville are providing rectories. These gratifying evidences of material advancement in spite of the financial depression consequent upon 2 years of scanty crops seem to the Bishop less noteworthy than the evidences of spiritual prosperity to which he refers at length. In regard to work among the Indians of North Dakota the Bishop says it is going on faithfully and well. A church is soon to be reared for a band of Sioux at the Cannonball river, on the Standing Rock reservation. The Bishop received a letter from a young Indian entreating him to visit the reservation and meet fifty or more Indians who were anxious to see him. He went and found three young Sioux who spoke English. They had heard the services of the Church, and having procured a few copies of the Book of Common Prayer in their own tongue, had been in the habit for a year past of assembling as many of the tribe as possible each Sunday for worship. One of these young men read the service while another took some portion of Holy Scripture and 'tried,' as he said, 'to tell what it meant.' Two of these young men had spent some time at Hampton Institute. One of the young men had built with his own hands a rude structure of logs for their tabernacle in the wilderness. They had faithfully instructed a number of candidates in preparation for Holy Baptism, and the Bishop, upon that visitation, baptized thirteen persons and married two couples, who desired to receive that Christian rite. The Bishop in closing his description of the work of these young men says: 'Here is, I think, a picture of exquisite missionary zeal and labor that would be worthy of a record among the highest annals of Christian enthusiasm.'

CHINA.

Annual Conference of Clergy.

The Rev. Yang Kiung Yen writes from Shanghai, June 4th, as follows: 'On the 21st May was held the semi-annual Conference of the

Clergy of the Shanghai branch of the missionary jurisdiction in the Church of our Saviour. This has been an institution of several years' standing; and in its place of meeting alternates between this Church and St. John's Collegiate Church. The Bishop presides, and in his absence, as in this instance the Rev. Mr. Thomson, the Archdeacon. The conference is for the purpose of spiritual communion before God, for reports and for mutual counsels and encouragement, as also for giving an opportunity to those stationed far away to visit their relations and friends in Shanghai. When I say 'stationed far away,' I mean as regards time and not as regards latitude and longitude. The farthest station is Ngakong. It is only 28 miles from here, but it takes fourteen hours' travel to reach it.

At this present Conference the Holy Communion was celebrated at 10:30 a.m. by the Rev. Messrs. F. L. H. Pott and S. C. Hwa. At 2 p.m. the exercises began with a short service by the Archdeacon, an address by the Rev. S. C. Hwa, and then oral reports from those who have charge of stations. After a social gathering at the home of the writer, which is behind the church, the brethren separated at 6:30 p.m.

It was greatly regretted that the Rev. H. N. Woo was absent, he being called away to the deathbed of his niece, who departed this life full of faith and with beautiful words of prayer on her lips. Two catechists were also absent.

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