

### Mississippi Intelligence.

**DIOCESE OF MISSOURI.**—We are gratified to learn from a correspondent of the Church Journal, that this diocese is steadily advancing under the faithful labors of its hard-working Bishop and Clergy, and the zealous co-operation of a goodly number of the laity. The Bishop has recently completed a visit to the interior, upon the Missouri and Mississippi rivers. The new parish has been organized in Prairieville, Pike county, where preparations are being made for the erection of a church and parsonage, the purchase of a glebe, &c. Several old parishes are reviving from their long sleep, and appearances indicate the dawn of a cheering day for the Church in Missouri.

On the 21st ult., in St. John's Church, St. Louis, Bishop Hawks admitted Mr. Charles Purivance to the holy order of Deacons. At the same time as we learn from our contemporary's correspondent, the R. v. Francis L. Clerc, Rector of the Parish, presented at the church the R. v. Stephen Mussock, formerly a priest of the Romish Church, who after answering to the several questions as propounded by the Bishop in the Service for the ordination of Priests, read his unqualified Protest against the errors of that corrupt branch of the Church, his solemn renunciation of Her ministry, and the full avowal of his belief in the doctrine of the Protestant Episcopal Church, and his determination, by God's grace, to be a faithful servant at His altars.

The writer continues:—

This protest which was short, was yet full and explicit, and was listened to with rapt attention, uttered as it was with a modest and humble, yet clear and decided tone, plainly evincing that it was no unmeaning ceremony on the part of him who made it. All of us felt that we were receiving into our ranks a faithful soldier, who would be willing to endure hardness, and who would not shrink from any post when duty called. Providence seems to have opened a door for him in our rapidly growing city, and before he was thus publicly received into the ministry of the Church, he had already commenced his work.

The Rev. Stephen Mussock is a Hungarian by birth, and was for many years a priest in his own country, occupying important stations, and, as his letters from an Archbishop, Bishops and Priests show, enjoying their full confidence and respect. He has been in this country for some years, and is well known and most highly esteemed by some of the oldest and ablest presbyters of the church in your city, who did not scruple to commend him, by the requisite testimonials to our Bishop. He was led here, to the far-off south-west, by Providence, and here he has found a sphere of duty, which, to the united judgment of the city, seems to promise, by prudent, patient, and persevering labor, a rich harvest. There are now residing here more than a thousand families of Bohemians, the most of whom have been educated in the Romish Church, though many of them, from neglect, are inclining to infidelity. He has opened a school, and some 40 or 50 children are in attendance, whom he instructs in our language, and at the same time improves the opportunity of imparting to them such religious instruction as they are capable of receiving. This school he will continue to carry on, and we hope he will very soon be able to collect a congregation to whom he can steadily preached the Blessed Truths of our most Holy Faith. For the past few months he has been laboring in this field—going from house to house, and sitting down by the fireside, and reading the Word of God, and expounding to them its precious truths. Already a few of them have been found who have signed a protest against the errors and a renunciation of the Romish Church. Having received a medical education, he has been using his knowledge and skill in this particular to the benefit of the poor among his countrymen, and is thus winning upon their regard, and ensuring their confidence.—*Banner of the Cross.*

**DIOCESE OF CALIFORNIA.**—The Alta California gives us an account of a Confirmation held by the Missionary Bishop of California, in his own Church in San Francisco:

On Sunday evening last, a Confirmation was held in Grace Church in this city, by the Right Reverend Dr. Kip, Bishop of California. The interest of the occasion was increased by the presence in the Chancel of the R. v. T. R. Holme, of the Church of England, Chaplain of the British frigate 'President,' now in this harbor. Mr. Holme performed the first part of the evening service, the remainder being read by the Rev. Dr. Clark. The Rev. Mr. Wyatt, Rector of Trinity Church, in this city, announced the psalm and

lymph, and read the preface to the confirmation service.

The sermon by the Bishop, was from Jeremiah, 8th chap., 11th verse.—'For they have healed the hurt of the daughter of my people slightly, saying, peace, peace, when there is no peace.' Its object was to give a picture of the popular religion of the day, as contrasted with the true teaching of Scripture, and of the Church in ancient days, and in the spirit of her present services.

The rite of confirmation was then administered to twenty one persons—eight of whom were from Trinity Church—the remainder from Grace Church. The service concluded with a short address to the newly confirmed, by the Bishop, setting forth the peculiar responsibility resting on them, from their living in a land of such intense worldliness, and their consequent duties.

The evening bright moonlight, seemed to have the atmosphere and balminess of June; such an evening as our friends at the east cannot imagine on the 26th of November. The music was exceedingly fine, the psalter for the evening being chanted responsively, in Cathedral style. The Church was crowded to its utmost capacity, and altogether it was one of the most interesting services we have witnessed in this city. It is to be regretted that the Church is not larger, that none need have been disappointed of seats, as many were.

The Alta California also notices very handsomely a late sermon by the Bishop, founded upon the great disasters which have so remarkably distinguished the year 1854.

**DIOCESE OF OHIO.**—The Western Episcopalian, with reference to Church efforts in this diocese, says—

Such has been the prodigious effectiveness of the system, that from a population decidedly anti-Episcopal and exasperated by ignorance of us and prejudice, we, in Ohio, have gathered a people that, for their numbers, will compare with any other denomination of Christians in the land for intelligence, wealth, and piety. We ourselves were among the pioneer clergy of the Protestant Episcopal Church in Ohio, and we well remember how we were, in those early times, a people everywhere spoken against. But from materials so unpromising, we have secured to our stated institutions and pastoral oversight at least 20,000 adults of our population. We have increased fully twenty fold in the last twenty years. We mean that the aggregate of our congregations is twenty times larger than it was twenty years ago. If we continue to increase in this proportion, we ourselves expect to live to see 200,000 of the population of this State connected (at least nominally) with our Protestant Episcopacy. Our impressions of the effectiveness of the Episcopal system, and our anticipations as to the wider field of usefulness which awaits us in this Diocese, were greatly strengthened by what we witnessed of the effects of an expected visit from the Bishop, and of his labors in one of our parishes in Delaware, Delaware county. We happened to be in this almost city at the Central Association when the Bishop's intended visit was announced, and subsequently when the Bishop was there. The very announcement that the chief pastor was about to visit the parish, created a new interest in the cause of the Church and of Christ, and several by this circumstance were led to decide, as we have learned, that is, to put an end to their indecision upon the grand subject of religion, who but for the expected visit of the Bishop to administer confirmation would, in all probability, have continued to still halt between two opinions.

### Selections.

The following are extracts from letters of Assistant-Chaplains recently sent by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel to the seat of war:—

"Scutari Barracks, Dec. 7, 1854.—First, I will tell you that I am happier and happier in my work every day: and I cannot thank you sufficiently for pointing me to this portion of God's vineyard, where, in the most literal sense, the harvest is plentiful, but the laborers have been, and still are, very few. For my first ten days here it was incessant toil and hard work from morning till night, and sometimes through the night too; for there were none to help me, poor Sabin, who had had two months of such labour, being laid up a few days after my arrival.

"Owen went on to the Crimea, and so I had three thousand dying and sick men to tend. At the end of the month Freeman and Eado came to my relief (both earnest, hard-working men); and it was well they

did, for, shortly after their arrival, I had such an attack of sickness and dizziness, that I was ordered out of this foul atmosphere by Dr. McGregor, and slept for two nights in the town. He promised me a fever or cholera; but, thank God, I got over it, and was at work again the next day, and am now as strong as a lion. I believe myself it was only the seasoning to this unaccustomed work: for, though at first I could not stand the stench of corrupt wounds, I can now live and sleep in the hospital as well as in my snug lodgings at Crayford, in the garden of England. With regard to the work of directing these dear fellows to their Saviour, its blessedness far exceeds my expectations. The value of the Word of God—the perfection of the salvation offered us in Christ crucified—and the power of prayer in His name—come out more and more clearly every day. The most stupid being in God's creation, with the least spark of love to Christ in his soul, could not but work for Him here, and in labouring feel himself useful. I am persuaded now of what I was not persuaded once, that the best school for eloquent and forcible preaching is at the bedside of the sick and the dying, and that the best sermon notes are composed there. The earnest eyes with which these brave men watch for us and welcome, and the eager ear with which they drink in the glad tidings of the Gospel, brings more ample satisfaction to the heart of a Christian minister, than the most perfect and polite attention of a crowded church can possibly do. In a word, it is the school which, above all others, I especially needed, for it gives me great boldness in speaking the truth as it is in Jesus, and confirms my own faith in Him.

"There is one truth especially, the inestimable value of which is called forth repeatedly by the scenes I witness daily—I mean the perfect humanity of our blessed Lord. I never saw human beings so utterly worn with fatigue and privation, as many of these soldiers, and I remember that He was weary; I never was among men so cut off from their friends and relations, and I remember that He was forsaken; I never witnessed such humiliation as that to which the most noble and strongest among the sons of men are subject here, and I remember the condescending humility of the Captain of our salvation: I never looked on such agony of soul as is expressed in the words, and the gestures of many among them, and I call to mind His agony in the garden, I never saw bodies so torn and lacerated, or limbs so racked with pain as here, but the cross of Christ comes distinctly before me; I never contemplated the fact of dying in torture till I saw men die here, and then the astounding fact of the death upon the cross fills one's soul with wonder and with love. To be brief, notwithstanding all my fellow-creatures suffer here—I do not think man could point to a scene of such multiplied suffering in any other part of the world—notwithstanding this, the sufferings of Christ in our human body always mount above them, and I am able to direct the minds even of the most wretched and miserable to that adorable fact, as a proof of His love to their souls.

"You must know there are two hospitals—one called the 'General Hospital,' containing 1,500; my hospital, Scutari Barracks, containing 3,000; and two hulks, containing about 600 sick and wounded."

From another Assistant-Chaplain (Society for the Propagation of the Gospel) just arrived at Scutari:—

"Dec. 24.—After breakfast, and before service, I visited the hospital at Scutari; went over the wards which were very comfortable. The men expressed themselves very grateful that so much was done for them. Miss Nightingale and the nurses are of very great use. An oath or profaneness is seldom or never heard.

"Notice had been given of the Holy Communion for Christmas Day."

At three o'clock, p. m., on Thursday last, the Southern Cross, the little vessel which is to bear the Bishop of New Zealand back to his diocese, and the glad tidings of the gospel of peace to the countless islands of the Pacific, was floated out of dock and towed down the river to her temporary mooring place below Blackwall. It was an interesting sight to see her committed to the waves under the personal superintendence of the Bishop, and in the presence of his friends and relations, some of whom will see his face no more: presenting, as it did, a striking contrast to a neighboring vessel, which started at the same time, with a crew of navvies, on a less peaceful expedition to the Crimea. The Southern Cross is a little schooner of nearly 100 tons burden, built by Messrs. Wigham and Co., of Blackwall, and costing from £1,800 to £2,000. The stern forms a roomy and comfortable cabin for the Bishop