

MISSION FIELD.

WEST INDIES.

In Jamaica, Church effort is beginning to revive, notwithstanding the continuance of commercial depression. In July two new chapels were commenced in the district of Oldharbour. 'This part has been deemed the hot-bed of Obeahism, and it was pleasing to see a whole village welcoming the building in their midst.' In August, on the other side of the island, a new church was opened at Highgate, and a school-chapel at Belfield. A correspondent of the *Jamaica Churchman* writes: 'I have myself been present at seven of such services as these since January.'

The Church in the Bahamas has to struggle hard with poverty, vice, and Obeahism; but progress is being made, on the whole. Mr. Wakefield writes from Nassau: 'The private guarantee of Mr. Heard's salary at Watling Island will soon come to the end of its three years' term. That island, now acknowledged by all to be Columbus' first landing place in this Western World, ought to be marked in some special manner. And how could the spot where the Cross was first planted in the New World, and the Eucharist first celebrated, be more appropriately hallowed than by building a suitable church and maintaining a priest at its altar? It is a matter in which all Christendom might interest itself. I wonder the Roman Catholics have not occupied the spot long ago.' He adds: 'I might speak of large islands with their hundreds of communicants and scholars where there is no clergyman resident, and they are glad if they have a visit from one once a year. But with three new priests and two deacons within five months we may well take courage. And the Easter Communion have everywhere been largely in excess of all former years.'

JAPAN.

The *Japan Mail* reports a remarkable preaching service held in Tokio, in the largest theatre in that city. The daily audiences are estimated at from 4,500 to 6,000. The preaching was mostly by native Japanese pastors, and the people listened eagerly for four hours each day. The *Mail* says: 'The large attendance, the earnest attention, with so little dissent or interruption, in so public and free a place as the most popular theatre in Tokio, give evidence of a marked and rapid advance in public sentiment in favour of Christianity.'

CHINA.

The C. M. S. native Christian adherents in China now exceed 7,000—the largest number there belonging to any one Society. Notwithstanding the peculiar difficulties that have beset the Fuh-Kien Mission in the past year, owing to the hostilities between France and China, there have been 213 adults and ninety-nine children baptized,

and a total increase of adherents from 5,277 to 5,871.

INDIA.

Quetta in Biluchistan, on the Afghan frontier, is to be occupied as not only an Imperial, but a Christian outpost. The Rev. G. Short, who heads the new mission, graduated at Cambridge in the Oriental Languages Tripos, and is familiar with Sindhi and Brahui—the latter a tongue hitherto unwritten. He is also a hardy itinerant, having roughed it for many summers on the burning plains of Sind. Babu Prithu Datta, M.A. and M.B. of Edinburgh, a convert from Narowal, Punjab, has devoted himself to medical missionary work among the villagers of that region.

The *Lahore Church Gazette* remarks on the annual report of the C. M. S.: 'The Society continues to lay great stress on the importance of developing the "Native Church." But why does it cling to that objectionable phrase? The use of it seems hardly consistent with those Scriptural principles on which the Society is based. How can the idea of a "Native Church," i.e., a Church containing none but natives of a particular country, be reconciled with the New Testament? Can we imagine St. Paul speaking of the "Native Churches" of Corinth and Colosse as separate from the Jewish and other foreign Christians in those cities?'

A 'Christian Unity Society' has been formed at Calcutta. Its object is, by mutual counsel and prayer, to promote visible unity among Christian people. Among its members are chaplains, missionaries of the C.M.S., S.P.G., Oxford Missions, and missionaries of Christian Societies not belonging to the Anglican Communion.

In Calcutta there has long been a weekly organ of Native Christianity. In the past year a Church paper has been started at Lucknow, the *Shiel Shidan* (Messenger of Light), printed partly in English and partly in Urdu.

The Calcutta correspondent of a contemporary writes of the English clergy in India: 'I have been much struck since my arrival with the amount of work done by the English clergy. Almost every chaplain in this city is in charge of a church and parish which at home would be officered by a vicar and (at least) two assistant-clergy. I bear this testimony, because I heard only recently of a community of Sisters in England who tried to prevent a nurse from coming out with a chaplain's wife, because (said they) the Indian chaplains are neither good Churchmen nor good workers. The Sunday work done by a chaplain whom I know, single-handed, is as follows: Morning Prayer and Sermon in the jail at 6:30 a.m. (this includes playing the harmonium and leading the singing); 8 a.m., Celebration with thirty-five communicants; 10:30 a.m., Morning Prayer, Celebration and Sermon, forty-six communicants; 6:30 Evening song and sermon. These last three services in the church of the parish. Four whole services, with three

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sermons, and the thermometer at ninety degrees in the shade, is not a bad day's work for one man; and this is but a specimen.

MADAGASCAR.

The unjust attacks of France on Madagascar may possibly come to an end, now that the new elections have shown a majority of the French people to be weary of the so-called 'Colonial policy.' Meanwhile, the English and Norwegian missions, though necessarily suffering, still make advances. The Rev. G. H. Smith (S.P.G.), writes of the work among the Betsimisarakas: 'Ambodarina goes on well under Shirley; the school numbers over 100, and I had five baptisms at my last visit. Another large village on the coast, called Andranotoara, has made several requests for a teacher, and I purpose placing there young Abel, who accompanied the Bishop in his tour round the north. At Mahanoro, the progress is wonderful: it is only a year since the first beginnings were made, and we have now 400 children under instruction, congregations over that number, and some eighty or ninety preparing for baptism or confirmation. All this has been brought about in a country distracted by war, with the majority of the inhabitants of the coast villages taking refuge in the forests to the west, while for nearly six months the work was carried on, one may say, under the guns of a French man-of-war. Yet what has been done is a mere drop in the ocean to what remains ready to our hands. North, south, and west, there is an enormous and populous district earnestly looking for us.'

EAST AFRICA.

On Trinity Sunday Bishop Hannington held his first Ordination at Frere-town, when two natives were admitted to the diaconate, and Mr. W. E. Taylor received priest's orders.

Man, it is not thy works which are mortal, infinitely little, and the greatest no greater than the least, but only the spirit thou workest in, that can have worth or continuance.—Carlyle.

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