

two years, when, in 1863, he was succeeded by Dr. A. R. P. Venables, in whose time the Church of England at the Bahamas was disestablished. Bishop Venables died, to the regret of all, in 1876, and the see remained vacant for two years, when, in 1878, the Rev. F. A. R. Cramer-Roberts was sent out as Nassau's third bishop, but was compelled to resign in 1885, after seven years faithful work, owing to the failing health of his wife, who was not allowed by her physician to return to Nassau. In the following year (1886) the Archbishop of Canterbury selected the Rev. Edward Townson Churton, M.A., Oxen, Vicar of St. Bartholomew's, Charlton-next-Dover, to be his successor, a position which he accepted and continues to hold. His brother, the Rev. Canon Churton of Cambridge, is well known as an ardent advocate of colonial and foreign missions.

Besides the Church of England people, the Methodists and Baptists are very numerous. There are also a few Presbyterians, but no Roman Catholics. Bishop Churton has made strenuous exertions to build up the Church, which is still suffering from poverty of funds. In 1887 he thus described the work of his clergy:—

"Our clergy are rectors, perhaps, of six or more churches, and may have a dozen settlements to shepherd, and may be divided from some of them by thirty miles or more of ocean. Small sailing boats, with or without protection from sun or rain, are their best and only conveyance from place to place; their visits may thus be shortened or lengthened indefinitely by the freaks of winds constantly shifting; and their condition after a tedious voyage may be such as to demand rest rather than strenuous exertion."

It may be said that the bishop himself finds great difficulty in journeying from place to place owing to the want of a suitable steam yacht, without which satisfactory work can never be done. The bishop has a society in England, called the "Nassau Society," which is rendering material assistance, and which in time will be the means, no doubt, of procuring the much needed little "steamer." Indeed, the "Memorial Yacht Fund" has already reached £150 for that purpose.

Nassau itself has many attractions, especially for those who wish to escape from a rigorous winter. A short voyage from New York will convey one from winter to summer in the month of February. The overcoat will be thrown aside and the straw hat eagerly purchased. The town, a very white town, the buildings being principally of that description, is full of people, very black people as most of them are. Yet, all are smilingly good natured, and the town seems happy under its genial sun, promising well, let us hope, for the future of the diocese which bears its name,

#### 5.—DIOCESE OF TRINIDAD.

Next to Jamaica, Trinidad is the largest of the West India Islands. It is close to South America, off the coast of Venezuela, and has a climate noted for its intense heat. It was discovered by Columbus in 1496, and for a time belonged to Spain; Raleigh visited it in search of gold. It was ceded to Great Britain in 1802 by the treaty of Amiens, and has a governor, whose residence is at Port of Spain, the capital. One of its ardent admirers was Charles Kingsley, whose vivid descriptions of it are well known. Here may be seen, 10,000 coolies, the Asiatics of the East Indies thus dwelling with the Africans of the western islands of the same name. Out of a total population of 170,000, 25,000 are whites and mulattoes, 10,000 are coolies and the rest (135,000) are negroes. The scenery in Trinidad, as everywhere in the tropics, is lovely. The "Blue Basin," a pool scooped out in the course of ages by a river falling through a mountain gorge, called blue from the reflection of the sky through the trees, and the Pitch Lake are among the natural wonders of the island. Pitch balls can be made from this lake without even soiling the fingers.

In a Church point of view, the island of Trinidad originally belonged to the Diocese of Barbadoes, but was formed into an independent diocese in 1872 by Royal warrant. It is a small diocese, having only about fifteen clergy and 40,000 church members. Opportunities are offered for work among the heathen even in this small territory, as there are some 65,000 Hindoos and some 1,200 Chinese. An annual allowance was made for Church work from government, but this was diminished in 1870 by the Act of Disestablishment and finally withdrawn.

The first bishop was the Rt. Rev. Dr. Rawle, whose history is worth detailing:—"A fourth wrangler and third in classical tripos, Trinity College, Cambridge, he gave himself to colonial work in 1847, being then thirty-five years of age. The post that fell to his lot was that of Principal of Codrington College, Barbados, a position which he held for seventeen years to the great advantage of the Institution, which became a great centre for education for the West Indies, and also a training school for missionaries to Africa. In 1863 he resigned this position and returned to England, to seek some relaxation from the hard work which fell to his lot in the West Indies. While doing parochial work in England, he was offered the position of Bishop of New Zealand, in succession to the great Bishop Selwyn, but he declined. He was also offered a chance to return to the West Indies, as Bishop of Antigua, but this also he declined. But a call came from Trinidad which he felt it his duty to accept. The clergy and laity of the island, many of them, probably, his old pupils in Codrington College, unanimously