

growth in the Mission during the two last triennial periods. The former was marked by very rapid extension, the latter has been devoted mainly to the consolidation and more perfect organization of the various elements in the Mission.

The numerical result of the work by the latest return is that there are now 12,519 baptized members of the Church of England spread over no less than 500 villages, and that about half of them are communicants. There are twenty Clergy, sixty Readers, and a large number of Catechists engaged in the Mission. So far as their work has been in the direction of extension it is shown in the baptism of 291 adult converts, besides 458 baptisms of the children of Christian parents, while at the end of the year 727 catechumens remained under instruction for baptism. As has been seen, however, strength and purity are being more strenuously aimed at just now than growth. For all the functions of the life of the Church, Chota Nagpore will now have the advantage of a resident head of the Episcopal order. Hope will accompany the prayers that his episcopate may be blessed to the Bishop and to those over whom he is called to rule.

UVA, CEYLON.

IN the very heart and centre of Ceylon lies the Province of Uva, at one time a principality under the Kandyan kings, the most difficult of access, and the most behind hand district in the Island. Badulla, the capital, lies in a lovely valley, shut in by lofty hills, and almost surrounded by the Badulla Oya or river. Here is a pretty church with full complement of services, both in English and the vernacular; a large Sinhalese congregation, a resident priest, parsonage, schools and everything that is generally seen in a well-ordered English parish. In outlying villages too, within easy reach of Badulla, are schools, and in one village a pretty mission school chapel. Altogether, there are upwards of 400 children being educated in the Church of England Schools. But away from Badulla, some thirty miles in the direction of the east coast, lies a district hitherto quite untouched by missionary enterprise, called the Bintenne District. Starting off the Government road to Batticaloa, one enters the jungle, travelling on for miles over jungle paths, and through the wildest country interspersed with numerous villages, the inhabitants of which are in the most abject state of poverty and misery. Fever haunts the whole country, the water supply is very bad, and in the hot season fails sometimes almost altogether; the people are entirely uneducated, not a single person one meets being ever able to read or write. The name of Christ is unknown. Quite recently the Government has made an attempt to alleviate

some of the suffering and misery by establishing Field Hospitals at some of the large centres, in charge of competent medical officers, and the attempt has been most successful in every way. It is now high time for the Church to step in and do something towards the evangelization of these poor people, and this can best be done through the schools. Already a start has been made, and two schools opened at Maddegama and Buttala, two places where Field Hospitals already exist. The Bishop of the Diocese has promised to provide the funds (for two years) for the support of an itinerating catechist and schoolmaster, out of the bequest made to him by the late Canon Liddon; this catechist is to be called the Liddon catechist, and it is hoped that a suitable man will soon be found and set to work. He is to visit at least three villages a week, preach to the people, and gather the children together and teach them. The idea is a good one and ought to be productive of much good result. But money is wanted, and plenty of it, for the founding and building of schools, and payment of the teachers, as well as for the support of an assistant priest; the present priest in charge having more work than he can possibly get through. He has to be responsible for the large congregation in Badulla, look after the important Mission Schools in that place and district, visit the planters in the neighbouring tea estates, visit small bands of native Christians in very often far off villages, sometimes being called away a distance of twenty-five miles to baptise or celebrate; and he is entirely single-handed, being the only priest in the large Province; and this new work will naturally often call him away for a week together, to superintend and encourage and foster the new enterprise; and naturally, such long and frequent absences will be detrimental to the work in Badulla. But the chief work in evangelising is the school work. For instance, there is a school and chapel at Baddegamme, three miles from Badulla, which has been in existence some time, with the result that forty adults and ten infants have been baptised, and all, with one or two exceptions, have proved faithful and are doing well. Here then we see in a short time a Christian congregation sprung up in the midst of an entirely heathen village, and this progress is entirely due in God's hands to the School situated there.

CONSECRATED SONS.



TRUMPET voice has been sounding through the land for a consecration of the sons and daughters for foreign mission work, and the hearts of Christians have been gladdened by the response that has been made to this call, the prayer of a