

MISSIONS IN CHINA AND JAPAN.

The interesting address which follows was delivered by the Bishop of Victoria (Hong Kong) at the last Annual Convention of the Diocese of New York.—

The Bishop of Victoria said that it gave him great pleasure to obey the kind invitation. He then thanked the Provisional Bishop and the Convention for the courtesy they had shown him in giving him an honorary seat in the convention. It was only another manifestation of the spirit in which he had been received in every part of the United States. He knew that it was not rendered to him as an individual, but sprang from a veneration and deep filial interest for the mother Church. On every steamboat and railway car, those sentiments had greeted him; and they were giving the greatest interest to the reception of the Prince of Wales, who deserved and demanded their prayers as the prospective heir of the British throne. In England there was felt a deep interest in the progress of the United States. The two Churches were one in faith, one in laws, one in the maintenance of pure Evangelical truth, in union with pure Apostolic order. He knew that there was a profound spirit of friendship, respect, and affection for England pervading the deep heart of this whole nation, especially that portion of it which belonged to the Church. And if, in England, they were unable to manifest a similar feeling as freely,—if they were more or less fettered by parliamentary law and Letters Patent,—their American friends must impute it to the right cause, and not doubt the state of their minds and hearts towards America. They were indeed deeply interested in seeing the abundance of America's material resources,—in seeing her taming the wilderness, rearing cities, and covering her vast territory with a network of railways; but they were still more interested in the progress of their sister Church in this land, the extension of her Dioceses, the increase of her clergy, and the marked growth of her influence upon the nation. He hoped she would lengthen her cords and strengthen her stakes, and thus England would rejoice with greater and more intense satisfaction.

The Bishop then passed on to the state of affairs at the East, in regard to which he was very much perplexed. It would take more than a merely human mind to predict the result with certainty. In view of the Anglo-French intervention, and the evident and palpable signs of decay in the Chinese Government, the policy of the Emperor was simply insane. He doubted whether that Government could long continue, and there was great danger lest our Mission there should for a time be overwhelmed with anarchy and desolation. The great Central Rebellion was another powerful element of change, of which he could not yet form a certain opinion, as to whether it would succeed or fail; or, if it succeeded, whether the benefits to Christianity would be greater than the evils. On the whole, he was inclined to a favourable view of the influence of the Tai-ping movement. They were half-enlightened Pagan insurgents, who had taken ten years to march from the South-east province of the Empire to their present threatening position. They had long been in possession of Nanking; had lately taken possession of Soochow