

saved Píngoland from rebellion in 1880. He was chief magistrate of the district. Humility—that delicate flower of the Christian character—we shall be told, has not yet blossomed on the soil. No doubt there is, and must be, a tendency to pride, when the half educated native compares himself with his heathen father. But they are in a transition state; they have not yet learnt to tread securely in their new surroundings; their eyes have not yet learnt to judge of the proportion of things. Certainly our best men and women, those most deeply influenced, shine distinctly with this grace. The Christians are the people of progress; they are the most advanced in agriculture, and trade flourishes where they are; for their wants are many and varied compared with those of the heathen. The outlook is sufficiently encouraging in the older territories and in the new. Our want will be well-trained native clergy and lay workers to carry the gifts to the heathen now coming under British influence. They are crystallizing under new forms, and we must take advantage of the crisis. The iron, God's rough material, is glowing for the forging; the blast, the fury of the nations, has been raising it to a white heat; even now it will be on the anvil. Are the hammermen ready?—*The Bishop of St. John's, Kaffraria.*

BLESSINGS STRAIGHT FROM GOD—THE
COMMUNION OF SAINTS.

Three days ago we saw the great procession which was intended to express to the Queen and to the whole world the deep loyalty of the English people and the gratitude which we all feel to Almighty God for that which He has done for us during these last sixty years. And of all that went on in that procession I think we may say that the most striking thing was the absolute sincerity and the thorough genuineness of the feelings that were then expressed. There can be no question on the part of any one who saw it or took any part in it that all were animated from their very hearts with the same feeling; that all alike were expressing, not something which they merely put on for the moment, but were pouring forth feelings of the deepest and truest earnestness because of what the Queen had been to us, and because of all that God had done for us. We think of the many blessings that have been slowly

but steadily accumulated upon us during the present reign, blessings all of them marked with the characteristic which specially belongs to the blessings that come straight from God; all of them marked by the most wonderful drawing of the people together. There has been no sixty years, in all the time that England has been a nation, of which it could be said that there was so visible a warmth of united affection for one another and so strong a desire to be drawn closer and closer together by every bond of union that could possibly be created. There has been no other time in which men of all classes have felt so deep a sympathy with one another. There has been no time in which from the highest to the lowest, from the Legislature of the whole empire to the humblest subject of Her Majesty, there was a warmer desire for the general good and for blessings immeasurable to be given to all that could possibly share them. And we owe so much of that to the Queen herself, because she is the leader in all this sympathy, the very expression of it in almost everything that she ever says or does, and the centre round which all this is stirring. We feel that she does indeed represent the empire at the head of which she sits. We feel that she is in the very truest sense English to the very core—that she is an Englishwoman and an English Christian. And all this has been given to us through her means and around her throne by the providence of our Heavenly Father. And in the midst of all this we cannot help observing that one of the things that will mark this reign for all posterity is the spread of the gospel of Christ over all the world. The feeling which draws all Englishmen and all subjects of the Queen together, the feeling of unity which permeates the people of the whole empire, shows itself in the strong desire that we may all join before the throne of God in the worship of our Saviour and Redeemer; and long will it be remembered that in this wonderful reign the Church has spread with even more rapidity than the power of the country, and that now we can present to the view of all the world a Church that is really beginning to wake to her great duty and really beginning to be stirred through and through with the noble, and at the same time, Christian, desire that all others shall be Christians as we

are Christians. This society has taken a part in the great work, in some respects the leading part, but in all respects a hearty and devoted part; and it is good that now, when we are looking back upon all the other blessings, we should have clearly before us this blessing which not only is a blessing, but a call to more earnest efforts in the discharge of the great task which the Lord has put upon His Church. We are called by the past: we are called by that which we received from God; we are called by the blessing with which He has blessed all our labours; and woe be to us if we are deaf to the call. But I think that we shall not be deaf to it, and I hope that this very year, amidst all the other things that it ought to do for Englishmen, will stir the very souls of English people throughout the island, and will stir all men who love the Lord to recognize that He is now reminding us of the duty which belongs to us. There have been times when the Church has done little for the propagation of the Gospel. There have been times when it seemed as if all this work lay outside the ordinary duty of ordinary Christians, as if a man might live a Christian life and be totally indifferent to that which the Church in which he is baptized is pledged to do. It seems that there have been times when men looked upon this as something altogether extraneous, a sort of addition to the Christian life, something which might be taken up by those who happened to have their interest aroused in what was going on in foreign countries. But I think we are gradually awaking, and that this year will awake us more than ever before, to the fact, which I cannot think is sufficiently present in the ordinary lives of Christian people, that the Holy Catholic Church lives by the communion of saints, and that that communion of saints is a perpetual demand upon us to make the doctrine and the faith of the Church of God known throughout the world wherever men are to be found. I hope that the time is coming when it will be felt that a man who was indifferent to that object was leaving out one of the most important parts of his Christian life, and, therefore, crippling it. There can be no question of the imperative character of the duty, but we are all of us slow to be stirred by the most imperative duties; and, as