

earnest and faithful, as ready as Polycarp or Cyprian to lay down their lives for their Saviour. Within the past twelve months the African missionary, Bishop Hannington, and quite recently the African Methodist missionary, Houghton, and his wife, in falling beneath the deadly blows of their savage murderers, have laid firm foundation for the permanent success of the kingdom of Christ in the Dark Continent. Within four weeks after the report of the death of Bishop Hannington reached England, fifty-three persons offered themselves as missionaries for service in the very society with which he was connected.

The numerous readers of the CANADIAN METHODIST MAGAZINE, sharing the broad catholic spirit with which it is edited, will not be displeased that for the present missionary sketch two men have been selected worthily representing the grand old Anglican Church, to which Methodism has been so closely related.

George Augustus Selwyn was born at Richmond, England, in 1809. Attracted in his early ministry by the commercial interest which was increasing in the islands of the Pacific, and as well by the glorious record of success there of the London Missionary Society, he felt impelled to offer himself for missionary work in those lonely islands away on the desert sea. He soon organized his operations so perfectly that in a short time a new diocese was ready, and he was consecrated first Bishop of New Zealand in 1841, at the age of thirty-two. This diocese would gain in the comparison even with the fields of toil of the Methodist bishops of the United States, for its dimensions were 5,000 miles by over 1,200. It was an ocean strip of over eighty degrees of latitude by twenty of longitude. During the first seven years he had to confine his labours very largely to New Zealand. A great difficulty in evangelizing the more northern groups was that, as they were so near the Equator, Europeans could only live in them three months of the year. A further hindrance was the great diversity of dialects and languages. The London Missionary Society, which began its operations in Tahiti, 1797, had followed the plan, however, of sending native teachers from one island to others lying near it, and so gradually spreading the Gospel light from island to island. Landing the native catechists amongst their savage countrymen, they would