

MISSION FIELD.

CHEDDAR, in Somerset, has raised its remittance for the Society in a way that may encourage others. The Vicar writes:—

"I have special pleasure this year in sending you a remittance of over £20 from this parish for the general funds of S.P.G., because I had feared that from loss of larger subscriptions it would have fallen to £15. Thanks, however, to boxes, and an increasing interest in the cause of the Foreign Missions of the Church among the younger members of my flock, our contribution reaches the average which I have always endeavoured to reach. The desire of the poor to help on the work often comes out in the methods adopted to fill their boxes. One tells me she strikes verbenas to sell for S.P.G. Another that she devotes what she can make by the sale of roses to her box. And I could tell you of humbler and more prosaic ways in which the coffers of the Society are replenished."

We inserted (on the suggestion of a lady who offered £1 if others would do the like) a special appeal in the *Mission Field* for December, for subscriptions to enable the Rev. A. Smith, of Mahonoro, to place teachers at certain places in his district, where they would be welcomed, and indeed were petitioned for. It was based on the touching report, which we had printed the month before.

It may be that our readers shared our hope that some seven or eight people would be sure to send £2 each to provide for at least one such teacher, and so each trusted to the generosity of others. The hope has so far not been justified, as only four persons have written to promise this sum. Mr. Smith's report on pages 420 and 421 of the *Mission Field* for November ran thus:—

"From this point southward up to Mahela—a distance of about 30 miles—no Missionary work has ever been attempted. The large towns of Ambinaninisakaleona, Nosivarika, Ampomanitra, Ambajito, Mahambo, Vohitsara (where the stone elephant is), Antanambao—all are untouched. No doubt someone will ask: Why have you not taken them up? Because I have no money to pay a teacher to place there. What can I do? Teachers must live as well as others, and I have no means whatever of paying them. For each of these places a sum of six dollars per month is required for a teacher's wages. The school-church building and the house for the teacher to live in will be gladly provided by the people in each village. For want of this six dollars per month the whole population for thirty miles lies in continual spiritual darkness. The Governor of Mahela wrote to me only a few days ago: 'We are waiting for the teachers: the whole population is ready to be taught.' Yes, waiting for teachers! The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few. Pray ye the Lord of the harvest that He may send forth labor-



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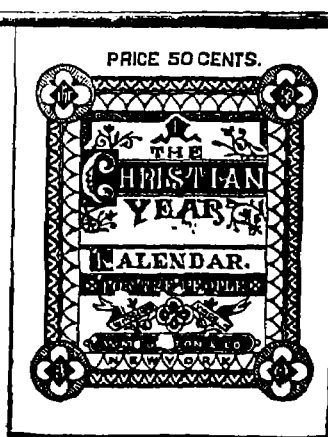
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