

BISHOP'S ADDRESS.

The Lord Bishop then delivered the following Address :—

REVEREND BRETHREN AND BRETHREN OF THE LAITY,

I shall commence my usual annual address to you with a glance at the events of the past year. These, as far as they are connected with the work and interests of the Church,—though not in themselves remarkable or striking,—have always their importance.

The several Committees named last year by the Synod, to carry out the practical work of the Diocese, have held their respective meetings at the appointed periods, and have given, as I believe, their best attention to the duties assigned to them. But I feel justified in mentioning that, in several instances, a quorum of members could not be obtained; and as this was owing in a great degree to the largeness of the Committees, it might be well, unless in a few of the more important ones, such as the Commutation Trust and the Mission Board, to reduce their number from eight to six. This would help to obviate the difficulty complained of; for where there can be no provision made for the payment of expenses, it would be found desirable to lessen as much as possible the aggregate of such a burden. In the contemplated revision of the details of the Constitution, this point, I trust, will receive consideration.

Our missionary work, if it has not kept pace with the wants of the Diocese, has nevertheless made some satisfactory advance. Very large missions are gradually being divided; and as means and men are more abundantly furnished, there will be large opportunities for still more concentrating the labours of our Clergy, and giving better effect to their ministrations. We must all be sensible of the importance of rendering religious services at established stations as frequent as possible, and of not allowing too long intervals between them. The influence of such services is necessarily much weakened, if the instructions and admonitions they comprehend are not steadily and continuously followed up. On this ground, it has been my aim so to apportion the work of our Missionaries that every important station should have a regular Sunday service, and as frequent pastoral visits on other days as possible.