



RANCHI CHURCH, CHOTA NAGPORE.

twenty days. On Wednesday, February 17th, he commenced the examination of ten candidates for Holy Orders, of whom all but two were natives of Chota Nagpore; and on the following Sunday he held his ordination, the service being in the Hindi language and attended by many Christians from the surrounding villages, of whom there were 382 communicants. The Rev. W. H. Bray, the Society's Secretary in Calcutta, accompanied the Bishop on his visitation, and in a graphic letter stated how much he had been impressed with all he saw. "On waking," he wrote, "very early in the last morning of my journey, I was astonished to see, as the most conspicuous feature in the landscape, what would be, even in England, a really remarkably handsome-looking church. We were as yet, some distance from Ranchi, but of course it could be no other than St. Paul's of that station. A nearer approach only caused me to admire it the more, and when I arrived and looked in, and saw everything well finished that was intended to be considered finished, I was full of satisfaction and thankfulness. There are no seats, as you know, for the natives, and those for the Europeans are moved aside, excepting

at the English services, so that the whole nave is one vast area with nothing save the pillars rising from the matted floor to take off the attention from the imposing-looking chancel and choir. When, afterwards the congregation assembled, and prostrated themselves (they do not simply kneel) and joined in the service, both in that part which was said, and perhaps more especially in that which was sung, their voices blending in almost perfect harmony—the aspect was very impressive indeed, especially when one remembered what these men were, and what they would be still but for the message they have received." Of the natives who have received ordination, he added: "Their simplicity and unsophisticated manners were characteristic. What the Society has long been trying to do in Bengal, but has so far largely failed in doing—to raise up native pastors who shall retain their original simple manner of living—has been done to perfection in Chota Nagpore. They wanted me to have their portraits taken all together. As they justly said: 'They were the first Priests and Deacons of their race, they were all together then, they might never be again.' I was charmed with them, one and all, and I am sure that if anyone wants to learn how to bring up village pastors who should be worthy of the name, and at the same time be able to live upon salaries which the people themselves can afford, he cannot do better than take a lesson from the Missionaries at Ranchi. To Mr.

Whitley their preparation is mainly due." The stipends of the Priests were fixed at £18 per annum, and of the Deacons at £14.

The premature death of Mr. Vallings on his voyage home for health, in 1887, deprived the Mission of one who had devoted the last six years of his life with great enthusiasm to the work of the Church at Chota Nagpore. Mr. Whitley, who was then on furlough in England, was thus left the only English Missionary, and the present Bishop of Calcutta made an earnest appeal for two good men to join the staff, as he started in November 1877 for a visitation throughout the district, where between 2,000 and 3,000 candidates awaited confirmation. Mr. Whitley hastened his return to the scene of his labours.

In 1880 the Bishop of Calcutta, formally visited the mission. Four weeks were occupied with a most interesting tour through the district. During this visit, the Bishop ordained three native priests, and seven native Deacons, and confirmed 1,357 persons, while 2,907 received the Holy Communion. In 1877 the number of those confirmed was 1,982, and the difference expresses with sufficient accuracy the rate of