

## MISSION FIELD.

[From the S. P. G. Mission Field for April.]

## AHMEDNAGAR.

Ahmednagar is an extensive district in the diocese of Bombay, measuring one hundred miles in one direction by eighty in the other. Over it is spread a large number of village missions in three groups, with some three or four thousand converts. There are about fifty schools in the Mission, but the large area occupied has made the pastoral care of the converts one of extreme difficulty. If there were more Missionaries at work there who are already Christians would be built up in the Faith, and there is no doubt that large numbers of all castes would become candidates for baptism. Most of the converts at present are Mahars. The Rev. A. O. Laughlin, one of the Missionaries, is able to tell of interest in the Gospel recently evinced by some people of another sort. They are the Bhils, a class of people who, though professional thieves, are, by virtue of the terror they inspire, allowed caste privileges. These people—who live in their separate 'wadars,' or quarters—have received the Mission agents very kindly, and really seem desirous to become Christians, manifesting moreover a distinct wish to have their children educated (which is a considerable upward step in a people's civilising).

—300—

## S.P.G. NOTES FOR MAY.

At the Anniversary Service in St. Paul's Cathedral on Wednesday, 17th June, the preacher will be the Lord Bishop of Derry and Raphoe. The service, which will be (as usual) a choral celebration of the Holy Communion is to begin at 11 a.m.

Durham University has lately inaugurated an Association for the S.P.G. Society, with the Bishop as Patron, and the Archdeacon as President. The other members of the committee are under graduates. There seems to be a most hopeful growth of the Missionary spirit in our home universities.

A meeting of very unusual interest will be held in St. James' Hall, London, Eng., on May 29th. The Colonial Bishopric Council will then have completed the first half century of its existence, having been formally established by the Archbishops and Bishops on June 1st, 1841. The three treasurers then appointed were the late Mr. Justice Coleridge, the late Archdeacon Hale, and Mr. Gladstone, who still retains office in that capacity. The fund has been worked very quietly, with little pleading for money, and only two public meetings have been held in its behalf, viz: in 1853 and 1874. It has administered nearly £300,000, and has been the means of establishing between 50 and 60 dioceses. In 1841 there were only ten dioceses in foreign parts, and these all supported by public funds. There are now 82 dioceses, of which 61 are grouped in seven provinces, the



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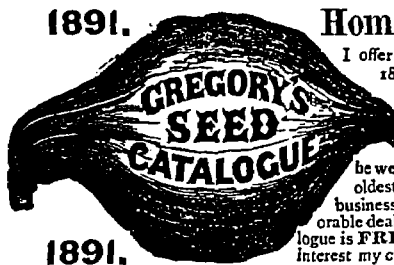
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remainder being attached to the See of Canterbury.

At the proposed 'Jubilee' meeting the Archbishop of Canterbury will preside, and among the speakers will be Mr. Gladstone and Mr. W. H. Smith.

In the consecration of the Bishop of Honduras a new departure has been taken by the West Indian Church. No Bishop had been consecrated in the West Indies before. Until the Church there had become an Ecclesiastical province, such an act was scarcely possible. The consecration took place at Barbados on Sunday, March 1st, the Primate (the Bishop of Guiana) being assisted by the Bishops of Barbados, Jamaica, and Trinidad, and by the coadjutor Bishops of Antigua and Jamaica.

The new Bishop is the Right Rev. Henry Redmayne Holme who was made Archdeacon of St. Kitt's, Diocese of Antigua, in 1885. Although the Diocese of Honduras was founded in 1883, the consecration of Bishop Holme is really an addition to the number of the West Indian Sees. His Lordship relieves the Bishop of Jamaica of what, for practical purposes, was part of his Diocese—or, to speak more accurately, of one of the two Dioceses over which he presided.

Upper Paarl, like most parishes in the Diocese of Capetown, has a white or Colonial congregation, while there is much work to be done among the natives. Of this latter

side of his duties the Rev. R. M. Clark thus writes, after commending the liberality of the offerings of the white portion of his flock:

'One other circumstance during this year has been to me of an encouraging nature. It is this: I have prepared a larger number than usual of our poor colored brethren for baptism and confirmation. Of the seventeen belonging to this part of the parish whom the Bishop confirmed last week only three were whites; and of the fourteen others, five had been baptised but a few days before. These numbers, I know, are exceedingly small when contrasted with the numbers baptized and confirmed elsewhere; but for this place they are comparatively large, and indicate, in regard to work accomplished, growth and improvement.'

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