

BISHOP SULLIVAN'S SERMON.

The Right Reverend Dr. Sullivan, the retiring Bishop of Algoma, preached the sermon. The text was taken from the Gospel of St. Matthew, chapter ii., verse 10.

"When they saw the star they rejoiced with exceeding great joy."

Who and what were these wise men from the East, and how did they know to follow the star to where the Heavenly Babe lay, five long months' journey across the desert sands, to bow themselves before the Child? Was it only for themselves that they undertook the journey, to satisfy their curiosity, or for what? After referring to the coming of Anna and Simeon to welcome the Babe and to Simeon's pathetic singing of the *Nunc Dimittis*, the

swer the question, and will gladly do so, showing the benefit of missionary work. An extract from the London *Times* was read by the preacher, showing the great increase in the Christian population of the world in modern times. Thanks to the missionaries who have worked in India the scene has almost completely changed there. The sacrificing of themselves and members of their families to heathen gods by the natives, the burning of the widow at her husband's burial, the sick left to perish on the banks of the Ganges—all this has almost totally disappeared through the efforts of Christian missionaries. Christian missionaries, through noble women, have established and are establishing and building Christian hospitals and dispensaries in the Hindoo lands for the care and advancement of the

dence may, even more, a special inspiration of the Holy Ghost—that the Church has been led to select for the commissioning of a chief pastor to care for the sheep of Christ's flock, who are scattered abroad over a wide field in this fair Dominion, the very day on which the first and earliest Epiphany was vouchsafed to the representatives of races dwelling in what were then "the uttermost ends of the earth." Brethren, I ask on his behalf your fervent prayers, your deepest sympathies, your most generous support. He will need them sorely. Some years since, England despatched one of her bravest sons to Egypt to maintain her supremacy there against the countless hosts of the followers of the Mahdi, and then, following a cowardly, hesitating policy, left him there unsupported, to fall a prey to his



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Bishop said that we were brought by the solemnity of the hour and season to the consideration of missions. The heathen of London and New York, as well as those of the desert sands and of India, China, Japan, and Africa, who were formerly opposed to Christianity, have all thrown open their gates to receive the cross of the Babe whom the wise men from the East were amongst the first to receive. People sometimes ask whether these missions are worth maintaining; whether the expenditure incurred in them is justified. Such questions have a right to be asked by the Church's children if they are serious-minded people and are looking after the advancement of the Church, and the Church is bound to an-

Christian converts, all of whom worship the same Child King as Him to whom the wise men from the East paid homage. "The earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea." Let the Church take her full part in both domestic and foreign missionary work, and support them together. They reflect upon and help each other. But to day, brethren, argument is scarcely needed in favour of the close and intimate connection in which home and foreign missions are bound up together in the bundle of the Church's corporate life. The solemnities of the hour furnish ample illustration. Surely it is somewhat more than a happy coincidence—nay, may we not call it a directly divine provi-

enemies, thereby writing a bar sinister on her escutcheon, which no time can ever obliterate. Brethren, I beseech you, and through you the Church at large, to hold up the hands of him who to-day, in obedience to a divine call, goes forth from these walls to take up the heavy burden of the administration of your Missionary Diocese of Algoma. It would be a cruelty and injustice to leave him there unsupported. I speak that whereof I know when I say that the ordinary labour, cares, and anxieties attendant on the episcopal supervision of such a jurisdiction, weighty though they be, are trifles light as air compared with the utter heart-sickness that comes of seeing doors opening for the building up of the Church of Christ,