

Mission Field.

[From our English Correspondent.]

MADRAS.

The Rev. J. A. Sharrock, in his report of the Cuddalore Mission, deplores the little fruit that now appears from the labours of Schwartz and his successors, whose work commenced in 1753. At the end of 141 years the number of Christians are 323, with 169 communicants. The men are mostly coolies of the lowest class or domestic servants to the Eurasians. Of the agents several have been unsatisfactory, and three were dismissed. A boarding school has been commenced, but most of the pupils are of the Pariah caste, and Christians of other castes will not let their children associate with them. A further embarrassment is due to the ground being preoccupied by Danish and German Lutheran Missions, besides those of the Church of Rome. The latter have by means of education gained much influence over the higher classes. Mr. Sharrock thinks that an old Mission like Taylor should either be fully manned and strengthened, or abandoned. It possesses some property in land, but for years it has been left in charge of a single native pastor. The dispute between Mr. Sharrock and the native priest, Jesudasra, has been decided by the Bishop in Mr. Sharrock's favour, who, as European missionary, is to be chairman of meetings and to superintend the native agents. Mr. Sharrock is preparing some vernacular tracts for the Religious Tract Society.

MADRAS.

In a description of the Sawzerpuram Mission, contributed to the *Venez Magazine*, the Rev. A. J. Godden says: "Four years ago about half the people living in the village of Kootadankada, in the Puthukottai district, placed themselves under Christian instruction. This was the result of the preaching of several years previous. The influence of their relatives in another village, who had renounced idolatry, had partly led these people to be anxious about their souls. They were received as catechumens, and a catechist was placed in the village, and a school was opened. More than fifty have been baptized, and there are fifty-nine under instruction for baptism. A great change has been produced in the village, and the Christians are distinguished by their dress and manner, as well as for their children's education. The four walls of a stone church have been built, and a sum of 250 rupees would suffice for its completion. It is to be dedicated to the 'Patience of God.' Mr. Godder observes that there has been much sad experience of apostasy and failure in the past history of the Tinnevely Mission, which proves that it is a fatal mistake to imagine that when once a man has been baptized he may be left to grow alone in grace, or that the whole power of the mission

should be employed in making new converts. He also observes that some of the efforts which should have been made for the conversion of heathen have been diverted to the questionable work of inducing Roman Catholic Christians to join a Protestant community, especially in Tangiers and Tinnevely.

AUSTRALIA.

Bishop Riley sailed for his Diocese of Perth, in Western Australia, on board the *Ormuz*, on the 29th of December. The Church in Perth is threatened with a withdrawal of the grant hitherto made from the Colonial treasury. At the Synod held in October it was urged that this withdrawal was unjust, and in opposition to the feelings of the country people. Some such provision was necessary to supply the religious needs of the scattered and roving settlements. The Bishop of Ballarat in a pastoral letter of December 1st, speaks of the lamentable want of funds for maintaining the work of the Diocese: 'the great depression stays with us, and its effects on the Church treasury are by this time terrible. Two thousands pounds raised at once would be indispensable to justify the bare maintenance of existing work. So dire is our financial condition, that several departments of religious work, and especially our cooperation with the special effort for Australasian Missions must be deferred.'

Since the visit of the Rev. A. H. Brittain to Queensland, the Bishop of Melanesia has come to the conclusion that the time has arrived for an extension of the Melanesian Mission to the Karaka laborers in Australia. The Bishops of Brisbane, Rockhampton and North Queensland cordially welcome the proposal. The number of Melanesians in Queensland is estimated at about 8,000.

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