

made in this special direction by the great German doctor, who has already alleviated suffering of another terrible form by his wonderful lymph. For many years past the subject of leprosy had not attracted great attention, but the work of the devoted priest of Molokai roused public attention to the disease as it appears in modern days. Let us glance first at its ravages in olden times; brought, it is said, into Europe first by the armies of Rome, it was generally diffused throughout Christendom by the Crusaders on their return from the east and became a fearful scourge. In olden times, in England, there was a side window in the chancel of some of the churches outside of which the lepers stood to hear the service and receive alms without coming in contact with those free from the disease. Lazar houses were provided where the poor victims were confined and gradually the plague was stamped out of Europe, except in Sweden, Norway and Turkey. In Norway there is now a government hospital for lepers. All England was startled a year or two since, when the Prince of Wales, who has taken a deep interest in the subject, stated at a public meeting in London, that leprosy could be found even in the great metropolis itself, and brought forward the case of a man actually engaged in business there who was leprosy. The disease still prevails in Japan, China and India, in the Sandwich Islands, and at the Cape of Good Hope, and it is said to be spreading in South Africa and the West Indies, and in many of the United States. In the winter of 1888, forty-two cases were reported at New Orleans, and there are two leper settlements in the State of Louisiana, one at La Fourche and the other at St. Martinsville. In Minnesota, Wisconsin and Dakota, 160 lepers had come from Norway. Along the Pacific coast, in Oregon and California, the disease was planted by the Chinese, and in Salt Lake City the plague was imported by a colony of Kanaka women, brought by the Mormons from the Sandwich Islands. Coming nearer home we find that there is a lazaretto in Tracadie, New Brunswick. Cases have also been reported in Cape Breton, where, in a Scotch settlement, the mother of a family—a person who had never seen a leper—was found to be afflicted. Of her six children, three took the disease, but the husband lived to a ripe old age in good health. In another Scotch settlement, some miles distant nine cases appeared in four families. Measures are being taken to isolate the afflicted ones, and the Dominion Government are trying to stamp out the disease.

And now we come to the question, "What can missions do, and what have they done for these our fellow creatures, who are bearing this heavy burden of woe and misery?" To go back to the past we find that in 1819 the Moravian Missionaries were working amongst them in South Africa. In January, 1823,

Brother Leitner and his English wife entered the leper settlement called by the strange name of "Heaven and Earth," and for six years continued their heroic and Christ-like work in that abode of living death, until Leitner, like Father Damien at Molokai, fell at his post, though not from leprosy. Whilst in the act of baptising one of the leper converts, as he was uttering the words, "I baptise thee into the death of Jesus," he fell back and was carried from the church amid the loud weeping of the congregation and almost immediately passed from earth to heaven. He was followed by another devoted man who remained at his post nearly ten years. One after another stepped into the breach as these soldiers of Christ fell at their post. The mission was removed in 1846 to Robben's Island, where it is still vigorously carried on. I think it is well for us to recall these early heroes of the cross and to remember that it is not the Church of Rome alone that produces saints and martyrs. A new and important work has just been commenced by a Miss Sheasby among the Robben Island lepers to whom she pays weekly visits, and an appeal has lately been made in the English papers for this and other mission work carried on amongst them. Miss Clara Boyes, the honorary-secretary at Cape Town earnestly pleads for anything that will alleviate the weary monotony of their lives. The Chaplain, the Rev. A. R. Willshire, has had to retire from active service, owing to age and infirmity, but an active committee has been appointed to care for their wants. I conclude from this statement that our own Church has her share in this mission work. In asking for gifts there is one request which might make us smile, but at the same time there is a pathos in it. Miss Boyes says: "The patients love anything that will make a noise from a penny whistle upwards."

(To be continued.)

AN ALLEGORY WORTH READING.

BY MRS. H. GRATTAN GUINNESS, IN "OUR OWN GAZETTE."



WEALTHY farmer who cultivated some thousands of acres, had by his benevolence endeared himself greatly to his large staff of labourers. He had occasion to leave the country in which his property was situated for some years, but before doing so, he gave his people clearly to understand that he wished the whole of the cultivated lands to be kept in hand, and all the unreclaimed moor and marsh lands to be enclosed and drained and brought into cultivation; that even the hills were to be terraced, and the poor mountain pastures manured, so that no single corner of the estate should remain neglected and barren. Ample resources were left for the execution of these works, and there