

Mission Field.

NATAL.

The financial difficulties in Natal are not yet surmounted. The original 'Church of England' properties are still in the hands of the Supreme Court of the Colony, and are withheld from the control of the Bishop, although the claims of the so-called Church council can no longer be established, nor that the congregations have ceased to regard it as representative. The Bishop is consequently much straightened for funds. The clergy are working at great disadvantage. Mission buildings are meagre and often in bad repair. More native teachers are required, and even the work among the settlers languishes for lack of support. The Bishop was itinerating in July, and for the first time preached an open air sermon to a heathen chief and his tribe in the neighborhood of Harding, on the Umziokulwara.

A grant has recently been obtained from the Christian Knowledge Society for lantern slides, illustrating Scripture and Church History, for use with natives and Indian immigrants.

DIOCESE OF GRAHAMSTOWN.

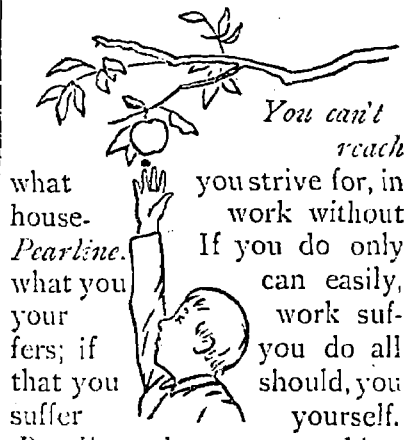
The Railway Mission is an important branch of work in the Diocese of Grahamstown. The Rev. Douglas Eliott in a paper contributed to the *Grahamstown Quarterly* states that the field includes some 1,200 miles of railway extending over the Eastern Province of Cape Colony, with a large population both black and white, living partly in camps some sixty miles apart, and partly in Plate-layers' cottages, dotted along the track at regular intervals. There may be about 2,000 white men, English and Dutch, and a great mass of natives. For all this there is but one man for the practical work of the Mission. It was begun six years ago by Father Simeon. A choir of centres is in process of formation round the whole district, where services and celebrations can be held at regular intervals, sometimes in cottages, hotel parlors, or goods-shed. Lonely cottages are also visited, and the children are catechised. The Sisters at St. Peter's Home, Grahamstown, have commenced a Boarding school for railway girls. A small quarterly paper, *Light for the Wise*, has been started, with a circulation of 2,000 copies, edited for the Mission by a priest in Grahamstown. An additional priest for the work is urgently needed. The Church struggles on with insufficient support, whilst the Railway Mission supported by Dissenters obtains a liberal subsidy, and has a well equipped coach on the line.

MISSIONARIES IN THE WORLD

According to the Danish statistician, Vahl, there are altogether 304 missionary societies for the conversion of the heathen to Christianity.

Seventy-six of these have their headquarters in England. These organizations employed, in 1892, 5,520 male missionaries, 2,771 unmarried females, 4,285 native preachers, and 45,683 native assistants. The greatest number of missionaries were in the employ of the English organization, namely 1,810. The American societies come next with 1,619 men. The Germans have only 525 missionaries abroad. The income of all the missions of the world was 54,981,835 marks (\$13,724,959) in 1892. This is an increase of nearly \$500,000 over the preceding year. England alone furnished over \$8,000,000 for missionary purposes. Germany contributed only \$750,000. The number of communicants under the care of these 58,241 missionaries and their helpers was, in 1892, 1,073,398.

THERE is only one great character in the world that can really draw out what is best in man. He is so far above all others in influencing men for good that He stands alone. That man was the founder of Christianity. To be a Christian man is to have that Character for our ideal in life, to live under its influence, to do what He would wish us to do, to live the kind of life He would have lived in our house, and had He our day's routine to go through. It would not, perhaps, alter the forms of our life, but it would alter the spirit, aims and motives of our life, and the Christian man is he who in that sense lives under the influence of Jesus Christ. —Drummond.



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THIS is one of the most important books undertaken by the Society during the year—and may be regarded as the book of the Season. It is a translation of the *magnum opus* of Professor Maspero 'Les Origines.' This volume, which will appear simultaneously in Paris, London, and New York, is an attempt to put together in a lucid and interesting manner all that the monuments have revealed to us concerning the earliest civilisation of Egypt and Chaldæa.

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