

will do what he can, and I believe, as a matter of fact, that, with God's blessing, you will be healed.' And so they come, and I have seen them coming up again and again in that kind of way, and receiving health and blessing through the medical mission."—*Spirit of Missions*.

PROGRESS IN SOUTH AFRICA.

"All men that see it shall say, 'This hath God done; for they shall perceive that it is His work.'"



HE Society has recently had the privilege of welcoming, and hearing an address from, the Rev. E. W. Stenson from the Diocese of Bloemfontein. The progress of which he tells is indeed wonderful, and should fill our hearts with thankfulness for what God has wrought among the heathen. Since Mr. Stenson went to Africa, forty-seven years ago, his has been a "frontier man's life." He has never seen Grahamstown. He had not seen Cape-town until he went there a short time ago to embark for England for the first time since he left it. When he first landed in South Africa the whole of the country round East London was then Red Kaffir land. Bishop Armstrong, of Grahamstown, on his arrival in 1854, grappled with the task of the conversion of the heathen. Four stations were soon opened, and the work spread and prospered until the next year, when the "cattle-killing" delusion ruined the people. Mr. Stenson remembers the day when it had been prophesied that the Kaffirs' ancestors would rise from the dead, and come, bringing cattle and corn, and help to drive away the strangers. The Kaffirs had parted with or destroyed all their herds, their grain, and other possessions, and awaited the appointed morning with joyful anticipation, but in the evening they were in sorrow. Soon famine was upon them, and five and twenty thousand of them died of it, fifty thousand migrated into the Colony, and many more disappeared. Under Sir George Grey's Government the Missions revived, and soon a district as large as Ireland was covered by a net-work of Mission stations—this being the work of the S.P.G.

In 1872 Mr. Stenson was ordained, and went to the Diocese of Bloemfontein, where he spent three years among the diggers in Griqualand West. In 1875 he became the first resident missionary of the Anglican Church in Basutoland.

The work there is most interesting because of the anxiety with which the missionaries are "besought" by many of the chiefs to send teachers to their people. The Basuto population has increased in Mr. Stenson's time from 127,000 to, it is estimated, nearly 300,000. Then there were no native Church people, and he was the only clergyman. Now there are seven priests, nine perfect churches, and a host of catechists, fifteen hundred communicants, and church members to be numbered by thousands.

Among other places where Mr. Stenson has been stationed is Wepener, in the Orange Free State, where he encountered opposition. Finding it impossible to retain the use of any other building, he determined to build a church, and, in spite of difficulties, accomplished this in eighteen months. Altogether Mr. Stenson has erected five churches in the Diocese of Bloemfontein. When he went there in 1872 there were only two churches, now there are forty-one substantial churches, besides many Mission chapels.

All this growth, Mr. Stenson says, is the fruit of the work of the S.P.G.

There are other Missions in the Diocese, Mr. Stenson stated, e.g.: Thaba'Nchu and Phokoane, Kimberley and Modderpoort, as also Bloemfontein, where equally good, stable, and vigorous work is being carried on.—*The Gospel Missionary*.

CHRIST CHURCH, FORDSBURG.

JUST three years and a half ago, the Rev. R. H. Bellamy was placed in charge of Fordsborg, then the very poorest and most neglected district in Johannesburg. On passing up the main street he saw a somewhat imposing structure, which he learnt was the Wesleyan Chapel, and several decent places of worship for the Dutch element of the population.

But the English Church was represented by a disused forage store, and that a wretched one. In wet weather the rain pouring through the roof rendered the building uninhabitable. There were several broken panes of glass, and the place was horribly dirty. A wooden prayer-desk was standing in the corner of the room, evidently pushed in there to be out of the way, and a little wooden lectern was leaning against it.

A piece of a disused counter standing against the end wall acted as an altar. There was no Communion Plate, and at the first celebration Mr. Bellamy had to use as a chalice a trophy of some amateur race. All this to one accustomed to well-organised parishes and well-furnished churches at home was a new and somewhat painful experience. However, he set to work manfully, and after two years' struggle managed to collect £2,400 to build a church, and the S.P.G. and the S.P.C.K. each added £150, making in all £2,700.

But an immense amount of patience and persistence were required. In the first place there was the utter indifference of the majority of the people; then came the wretched revolution which dispersed the Church people to all parts, and caused such a state of confusion for six months as to allow of no progress whatever. Next followed the awful dynamite explosion, which literally blew the parish to pieces, hardly a house escaping