MISSION FIELD

WIDENING HORIZONS.

(From the S.P.G. Mission Field for December, 1889).

[CONTINUED.]

If it be assumed from these state ments that the Society's resources have increased in a rat o corresponding with its extended work the inference will be wrong There has been growth, of course. For example, in 1869 it received in subser pt ons collections, and douations £63 636, while its normal income under the same item has on one occasion reached £80,000, and may be taken at an average of be ween £73,060 and £89 000. There have been years iich in legacies, and there have been responses to special appeals, sometimes disappointing, sometimes truly generous. The eac pt onal and ever growing demands have been met by reductions made in the grants to the older colonial dioceses-reductions made not without consideration, and in pursuance of the fixed pol cy wh ch throws a colonial diocese year by year more and more on its own resources as those resources naturally grow. It may be taken that lit le or no hardship has been inflicted by this policy, but ra her that a heal hy spir t of self help has been sumulated. To take only one or two examples-in 1869 Newfoundland received £4,100, where now it receives £2,900, and is has in that time increased its clerical staff ab.u. 30 per cent. i in 1869 the Australasian dioceses received £2 250, they now receive £450.

But all along proper and legitimate grow h has been checked by lack of means, and apparent injustice has been done to many dioceses Why, for example, it has been asked, should Pretoria receive £900 per annum and Grahamstown £3,000 per annum; Bloemfonstein £1 000, and St. John's £2,530, and Maritz-burg £2,125? It is perfectly true that the respective requirements of the several dioceses are by no means represented by the help which they receive; but the fact is that, in consequence of the restricted means at the disposal of the Society, the younger dioceses, such as Pre oria and bloemionte n, could have recoived help commensurate with their just claims only by reducing the help given to Grahamstown and Maritzburg and St. Johns, just when to have done so would have destroyed all that had been atta.ned by years of work.

The moral of all this is, then, that had the Church at home been more liberal, the Church abroad would have been stronger and ready sooner to stand on its own feet.

Now a word for the present and the immediate future

To some it may seem that experience is thrown away in the councils of the Socie y if with the knowledge of the past it enters on fresh fields But it must do so. There are voices that it is sinful to refuse to hear, and there are ventures of faith now to be made as fields open and opportunit es mult ply, on a scale of which the past knew nothing.

For several years the Society has been calling attention to two coun tries as demanding the c re of the Church These are New Guinea und Co ea In the first i secmed to be the duy of the Australian Churches, now well settled and numbering many wealthy members, to find its immediate sphere of work. Those Chnrches have received large help in the past In some portions of Australia State aid for many years poured year by year enormous sums into their treasury; the r B shopr cs are sufficien ly endowed; they have the means of education in abund ance, and they had received nearly £250 000 from the Society. It is for the spiritual benefit of Churches so situated that they should stretch out into the regions beyond and sow there the seed which long ago was planted in their own land And there is every reason to hope that our just expectations will be realised; but it seemed necessary that the first step should be taken by the Mother Church, and accord ingly the Society sent out last month the Rev. A. A. Maclaren, well known to many of our friend. as an earnest and able 'deputation' and has voted a lump sum of £1 000

towards the New Guinea Mission.
On All Saints' Day, the Rev. C.
J. Corfe, having accepted the call of our President, was consecrated Bishop of Corea, a heathen coun try with a population of eleven millions. This mission will be con ducted on the community principle; he Bishop and the clergy whom he hopes to a cure will live a common life with a common fund; and when it is stated that, with its present resources, the Society has not been able to guarantee more than £650 per annum, it will be seen that this Mission starts with the seal and symbol of apostolic poverty very visibly stamped upon it. A special fund has been opened, and it is hoped that not a few will contribute to it.

[To be continued.]

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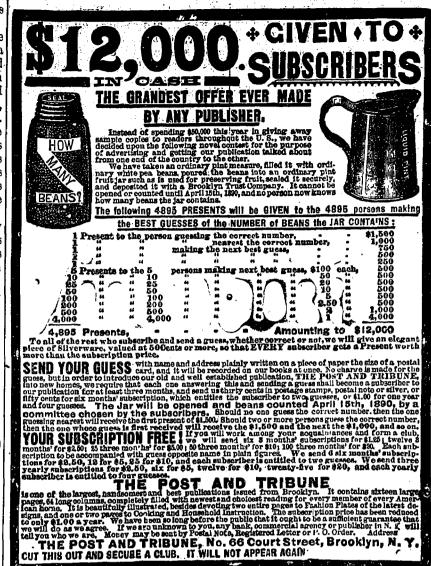
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