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## THE YEAR 1897.

(S.P.G. Mission Field.)

**D**O previous year, it may be said with confidence, has exceeded 1897 in importance with regard to the Church abroad and the cause of Missions. Yet it has been England itself that has been the scene of the chief events which have made the year so memorable. The assemblage of nearly two hundred bishops at Lambeth, the thanksgiving for the Queen's long reign, the thirteenth centenary of St. Augustine's landing on the shores of Kent, have been more than conferences, pageants, and assemblages. In themselves they have been more; in their effects they have already shown immeasurable force.

In the first place, it has been a great gain that by them people have been led to review the past. To compare the fourth Lambeth Conference with the first is itself an impressive lesson. To contrast the state of the Church abroad at the beginning of Her Majesty's happy reign with its present extended growth is to see evidence of the spiritual power that has energized it.

But these celebrations have been much more than retrospective. The resolutions of the Lambeth Conference, the fervid utterances of the chief Prelate of the Anglican Communion and of many others, the teaching of the secular press, and many a speech and writing about England's mission in the world, and the responsibilities attaching to her extended influence, have all led people to think about the future, to see in the present time the Christian duty of such a nation as ours and to enter into the aspirations of the Church for the fulfilling of the kingdom of our Lord. We hope and trust that such teaching may remain and be visible in its effects. There should be more ardour in our praises, more sturdiness in our faith, as we contemplate what God has already done. And there should be more reality and self-denial in our efforts for carrying forward that work which it is our privilege to be entrusted.

Reviewing the events of the year, we are at once reminded of those whose earthly work has been ended. Bishop Knight-Bruce of Bloemfontein, and afterwards pioneer Bishop of Mashonaland, who died just before the year

began, Bishop Bickersteth, first head of the Cambridge brotherhood in the Delhi Mission, and Bishop of South Tokyo, have lived lives the records of which the Church will treasure to animate the zeal of future workers. The Diocese of Rangoon has lost three of its clergy, John Fairclough, P. R. S. Fisher, and J. Kristna; in Madras three native clergymen have passed to their rest, N. Manuel, J. Gnanalivu, and A. Vedakan; a native clergyman, M. Dhan, has also died in Chhota Nagpur; Thomas Poswayo, chief of the Quati tribe in Kaffraria, has finished his honest and true



BISHOP E. BICKERSTETH.

career, and Mrs. Ridley's heroism among the Indians of her husband's diocese has achieved its consummation. At home we have lost some good friends and helpers, Canon Elwyn, the Rev. B. H. Sheppard, Mr. R. Benyon, and Canon Churton being among those best known.

The Society's "Women's Missionary Association" has shown activity in many directions, and not least in its new departure with regard to Medical Missions. The Society's anniversary embraced a most successful meeting for the young, and among these Children of the Church, the men and women of a few years hence, there is organization that should lead to their being worthy Messengers of their King.

The Society's anniversary itself was in every way most thankworthy. The service in St. Paul's, on the day following the Queen's *Te Deum* at the West Front, was alike reverent and stirring, while the morning and afternoon