

looked upon as men, but as cattle; so we shall all go home and pray to God to make the arm of the English strong.' And this is really the question of the day in South Africa: 'Are we to have all men—British, Boer, and aboriginal—dwelling together with equal rights as men under the British flag, or are we to have the domination of a Boer oligarchy over British and blacks alike?' In the Transvaal a black man is not a human being." Taking these words, we can but echo the opinion that 'incidentally "many blessings will result from this war."

The diocese of Pretoria, founded in 1877, consists of the Transvaal west of the Drakensburg Mountains. Its area is 106,357 square miles, or thereabouts, and the population, however carefully estimated, cannot be gauged with any approach to exactitude. It is thought that within the boundaries of the diocese there are 750,000 natives. The Boers, according to a low and very doubtful estimate of their own, number at least 200,000, and the number of Outlanders was at least equal to this number. The majority of the latter were British subjects and it was to free them from oppression and injustice, as has been generally recognized, that the present war was undertaken.

This diocese has gone through serious vicissitudes. It is only necessary to remind our readers of the sad days which followed the going out of its present Bishop, and culminated, after Majuba, in the return of the land to the government of the Boers. The years immediately following the retrocession were a period of great sadness for the Church people and for all of British blood. The prospects of Church work improved in 1887, when the goldfields were discovered. The population then increased rapidly, and for towns like Johannesburg religious provision had to be made. The people themselves helped considerably, finding stipends for their clergy and maintaining their Church. Thus, amid many changes, the Church went steadily on her way. The congregations did the greater part of the church-building, and in 1889 between £10,000 and £12,000 were raised for parochial work.

In the year 1898 it was estimated that the number of Church people in the diocese was 18,000, of whom about 4,000 were communicants. There were thirty-three clergy—i.e. thirty-two priests and one deacon. There were twenty-three churches and ten school chapels, besides thirteen mission chapels and twenty-three other

places in which services were held. In 1897 there were 1,200 baptisms and 336 confirmations. The Sunday schools numbered thirty-five, day schools eleven; and the estimated number of scholars was 2,000. The mining districts will, in the future, constitute an even larger mission field than they have formed in the past.

It is not surprising, under the circumstances financial and otherwise, that but little has been done for native mission work, though that is of the utmost importance. In almost every parish which has been constituted, a native chapel has however been built, and the clergyman has endeavored—generally successfully—to attract native congregations. It should be remembered that the Boers' policy is in every way to oppose and hinder the giving of any religious instruction to natives. It is, in fact, contrary to the Boer religion. The immense importance of the native work in the Transvaal has not yet been very fully realized at home. The S.P.C.K. has, however, given valuable aid, but the field is so large, and the laborers, comparatively, so few, that much greater exertions will be needed in the future if the native races are to be won for Christianity and civilization. It should not be forgotten



THE BISHOP OF PRETORIA.