

South Africa will thus have £2,366 in exceptional grants in addition to £20,000 in annual grants. It is an enormous problem of Missionary work that this expenditure is designed to forward. The Church among the English colonists is indeed fairly strong in the majority of the dioceses, and the Society's help to this class of work has for some years been lessened by degrees. But on the other hand there are new settlements, having their origin in gold discoveries, or other enterprises, where the Church has to be helped in the early days. Then the Missions to the natives offer opportunities as vast as they are encouraging. Thousands of Pondos, Basutos, Bechuanas, Fingoes, Zulus, Swazies, Mashona, Matabili, and other races and tribes are, though under British rule or British protection, still awaiting under heathen bondage the extension to them of that spiritual guiding and enfranchisement which many of their brethren already enjoy.

When we consider the grants for Asia we find some which have a connection with the additional annual grants mentioned above. Thus £60 is for the passage and outfit of the additional member of the Dublin Brotherhood, whose stipend has been provided for, and £120 is for like expenditure in correspondence with the grant for two new missionaries in the diocese of Lahore. The sum of £446 is to put the diocese of Singapore in a sound financial position with regard to the new work undertaken there. It will be remembered that £150 was added to the annual grant to this diocese, which includes the whole island of Borneo. We have already mentioned the vote for the erection of a clergy-house for Bombay. The sum of £200 is voted for the necessary repairs of St. John's College, Rangoon, and £300 has been reserved in view of the need of providing for some little time at the rate of £100 a year for an honored Missionary whose health broke down in North China.

Asia has thus £2,626 provided for it, in addition to £44,165 in annual grants. Its needs are of course immense. Alike in Assam in the east, in the Mahratta country to the west, in Chhotta Nagpur, in Bengai, and in the Telugu country and Tinnevely towards the south, India wants more men in all the Missions. Japan as the Bishops of South Tokyo and Osaka have both pleaded, has many towns untouched by missionary effort, as, of course, North China has also.

A further group of grants has to be noticed, and it is a noticeable one, for it relates to Australasia. To a great extent the Society's work is done there. No more thankworthy fruit of the help it has rendered in time past could there be, than that of which the evidence is, that help is needed no longer. Still there

are in Australia places needing help, and these the Society cannot overlook, as it remembers its primary responsibility for planting the Church among our own people. Prosperity—in the shape of a rush for gold—and adversity in drought, or in bank failures, have alike made it difficult for the Church to expand as rapidly as the occupation of the land proceeds. It will be remembered how strong an appeal the Bishop of Riverina made last year. It reached the Society after the grants had been made, but now it is possible to give the Bishop (for four years) the £200 a year for which he asked, and enable him to provide for itinerating clergymen. He wrote:—

"(1) Our own people are scattered over a diocese of 100,000 square miles, *i. e.*, larger than the whole of Great Britain. For this enormous area we have *fifteen* clergy. These have, as the centre of their individual operations, the larger townships. They minister to the people in the towns and as much of the surrounding bush as they can manage. In town they have their little church; in the bush they hold services in the shearing shed, in the cottage, or in the hut. You can well understand that many families are never reached at all. At one of the last baptismal services which I held there were five children of one family, varying in age from 16 downwards. There are families that see a clergyman once in twelve months, and we are terribly conscious that there are many others who never have even this attention. Whose fault is it? It most certainly is not ours. How can we, sixteen of us in all, work this enormous area of 100,000 square miles? A few months ago a most pathetic letter was addressed to headquarters stating that the district from which it came had not been visited for years. I quote its closing sentence, written in almost a frenzy: 'If we were negroes in South Africa or South Sea Islanders, if we were the vilest heathen races, then we might hope for some attention; but because we are white men, forced out into the wild bush, no one cares for us. We may lead the life of animals, and die the death of dogs.' Again I say, whose fault is it? Not until one of these same people offered to board and lodge a man for a year could anyone be sent. Board and lodging is not the principal expense; travelling in these drought-stricken regions is terribly dear, but we gladly accepted the offer, and sent a man. I am fearfully conscious that there are scores of such instances. But what can we do? We want more men and more money.

"(2) We do what we can for the aborigines. One out of our fifteen clergy gives a large portion of his time especially to them. They are *not* the hopeless beings that some imagine.