

MISSION FIELD.

THE CHURCH IN THE HAWAIIAN ISLANDS.

By the Rev. Geo. Wallace of Honolulu.

The political situation in Hawaii has of late been of peculiar interest in the great work. We have felt that the eyes of the great powers were upon us, watching to see how long we can be governed by the machinery of royalty in contracted quarters with the present fusion of a very vigorous democratic element. The commercial situation also is of a singular importance to the Pacific Coast for it must soon begin to demonstrate whether the cane and sugar, which is now our great staple, will so remain, or be replaced in the western markets by beet sugar, as an increasing product of the great West. What we shall become politically or commercially, whether fifty years hence this land shall become a Chinese colony exclusively for the children of the flowery Kingdom, now the only element of our population that is on the increase, or be annexed to the United States, or have an English protectorate, or be gobbled up by Germany, as Samoa has been—no wise man ventures to predict.

The religious situation here will not be without interest to your readers. Christian teachers and places of public worship are numerous enough. We have many schools, public and private, secular and religious. To meet the religious needs of, say 16,000 people in Honolulu, of whom nearly one half are Chinamen, and not 2,000 Anglo-Saxons, we have a bishop, two priests, and two deacons. We have also a sisterhood in charge of the St. Andrew's Priory School. The Roman Church has a bishop and four priests, together with a teaching brotherhood and a sisterhood, both conducting large schools, and a sisterhood in charge of the Branch Leper Hospital. There are nine ministers of the Congregational body, nearly all of whom are engaged in Christian work, as pastors or teachers. All these associations have done and are doing good work among all classes and conditions.

The Church of England has been represented in Hawaii for twenty-five years by a bishop and staff of clergy; but we have not had the outward success of numbers and accumulated property. The rector of the parochial body, known as the Second English-speaking congregation of St. Andrew's cathedral, is the only clergyman who has ever had a distinctly local support. With this one exception the salaries of clergy, including the Bishop, have been paid for the most part by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, which now appropriates to the Hawaiian Mission £750 annually. The Rev. Alexander Mackintosh of the Cathedral staff is its missionary to Hawaiians in Honolulu, and in

addition to his clerical charge, is in the employment of the Hawaiian government as Principal of the Royal School. The Rev. H. H. Gowen is the Bishop's curate, with special charge of the Chinese work. The Rev. V. H. Kitcat is the headmaster of the Bishop's school for boys. The Rev. W. H. Barnes is missionary at Lahama and Wailuku, Mani; the Rev. J. M. Silver at Kohala, Hawaii, and the Rev. S. H. Davis at South Kona. The writer of this article, the only clergyman in American orders, is rector of the Second Congregation of the Cathedral in Honolulu which consists mainly of English and American residents, and is the principal congregation of the diocese.

Our tropical conditions furnish many discouragements. The Hawaiian is easy-going and apathetic, the Anglo-Saxon yields sadly to the gross temptations and idle ways of the sensuous life, and the Chinamen's commercial instincts mingle much self-interest with his acceptance of the foreigner's religion. The Portuguese is by inheritance and habit a Roman Catholic, and in the rest of our mixed population indifference to any religion whatsoever, seems hopelessly intensified.

(To be Continued.)

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