

Mission Field

The Council of the North China Mission have issued an appeal, in which it is stated that the pressing needs of the mission call for an additional income of 500*l.* a year. The mission, which is under the superintendence of Bishop Charles Perry Scott, extends over the six northern provinces of China—an immense territory, with an area of about 400,000 square miles, and an estimated population of between sixty and eighty millions. The missionary diocese is one of the three missionary jurisdictions into which the vast Chinese dominions have been divided. The other two are Mid-China, which is under the care of Bishop G. E. Moule; and Victoria, Hong Kong, which is the diocese of Bishop J. S. Burdon, the Missionary Bishop for South China. All these dioceses are terribly under-staffed, and particularly is this the case in North China, which is the most recently established of the three. There are here only about half-a-dozen clergy, including one Chinese and three or four lady workers, one of whom is a fully qualified doctor. Well may the Bishop's wife say, as she does in a recent letter, that the staff of workers is under-manned and under-womanned. The work to be done is an extraordinarily difficult one, as every one who has the faintest knowledge of the Chinese social system can easily imagine. Progress is, therefore, slow, and results small, if we only reckon heads, as is usually the case nowadays. This would, however, very inadequately represent the true influence of the mission on the people with which it comes into touch. The work of the North China Mission is well entitled to the sympathy and support of Church people at home.

The diocese of North China was founded in 1880, and its first bishop was the Rev. Charles Perry Scott, who was formerly curate of St. Peter's, Eaton Square, and who was sent forth to his mission in China from that parish in 1874. The intervening years were spent in very active missionary work in that country, and in acquiring a knowledge of the language, the people, and their ways, which has been invaluable to him. Sir Thomas Wade, K.C.B., who was at one time H.B.M. Minister at the Court of Peking, has a high opinion of Bishop Scott and his special fitness for the work. Sir Thomas strongly advocates the expediency of sending missionaries of superior education to China, because,

as he very truly urges, the Chinese people are, within the bounds of their own vast literature, a highly educated nation.

The Rev. Joseph Sidney Hill, whose selection as the Bishop-designate of the Niger, in succession to the late Bishop Crowther, we announced some time ago, has left England to visit the sphere of his future work before his consecration. The visit, which is made at the wish of the Archbishop of Canterbury, is an important one. The native congregations want a black bishop, and are not feeling very kindly towards the C.M.S. for not giving them their desire. Mr. Hill is going to them, not only as Bishop-designate, but also as the Commissary of the Archbishop and as C.M.S. Director of the Mission. His appearance in this triple capacity and warmly commended by the Archbishop, combined with his tact, ought to be successful in removing any sense of dissatisfaction from the native mind. Mr. Hill's varied experience in West Africa, Australia, and New Zealand cannot fail to be of much service to him in his work. We trust that he will be cordially received by the natives, and may overcome any prejudices they may have contracted, as well as that his health may stand the climate better than when he was in Africa before. He had then to be invalidated home.

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