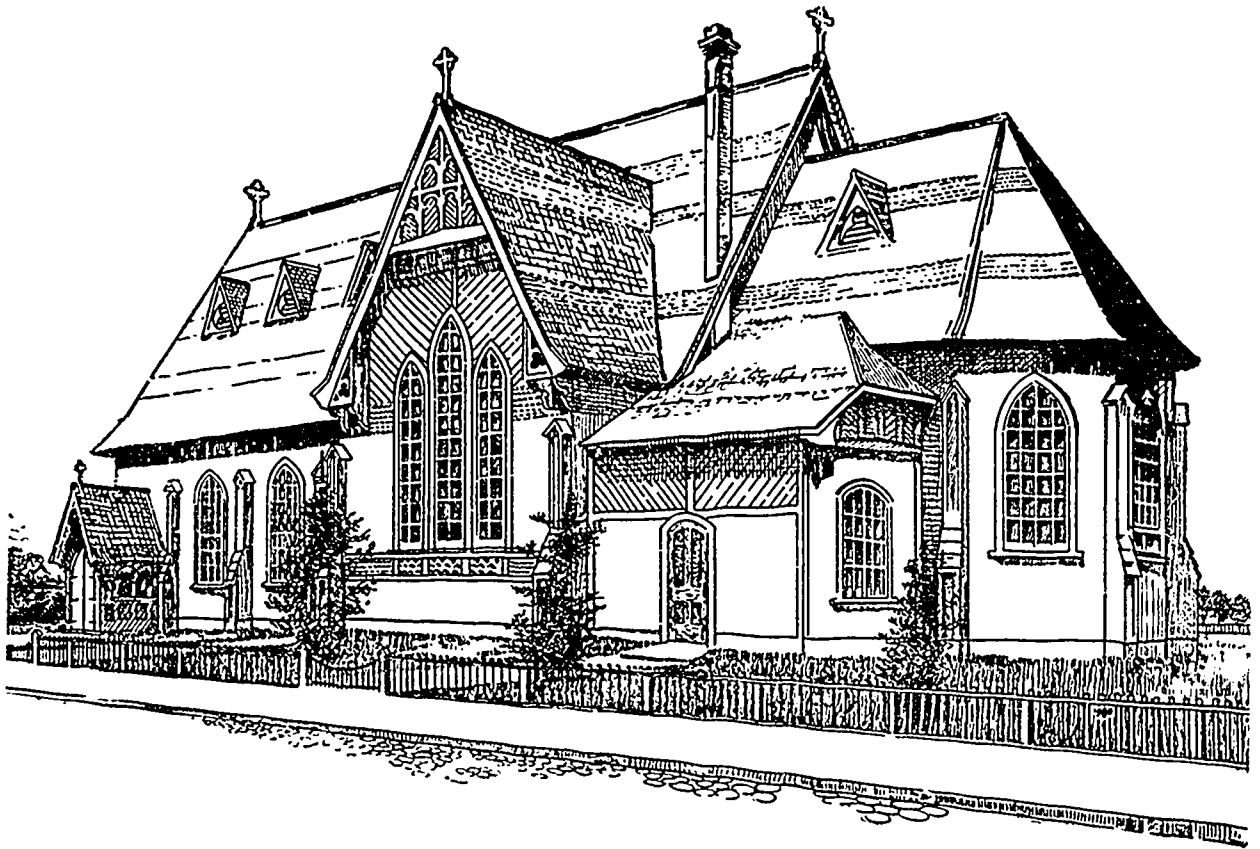




ALL SAINTS' CHURCH.

church was opened with great rejoicing. The service was all in Swahili, and the very grandeur of the building impressed the people, especially as the Mohammedans had been declaring that the church stood by a miracle, and that when it was filled with Christians it would fall and crush them. "Can you tell me why it is," the Sultan had asked, "that my buildings tumble down, but what you build never falls?" and, though a strict Islamite, the Sultan sent a clock for the tower of the new Christ church.

This was the last great event of Bishop Steere's life. Much work, indeed, was done before his visit to England in 1882, but he was conscious that the time of his activity was over, and shortly after his return to Zanzibar, and while his staff was preparing for the Holy Communion, he was stricken down and died almost immediately. The funeral service was in Swahili, attended by throngs of natives and Europeans, and the great bishop was laid at rest beside the altar, which itself occupies the site of the old whipping post. After his death there was found among his papers a letter singularly characteristic of his zeal and humility, in which he offered his resignation to the society, but proposed to occupy a subordinate position at Zanzibar to help his successor,

and so to carry on the work he had been doing. "He would never regard anything as beneath his attention," says Archdeacon Maples, "and it seemed as natural to see him plying a hammer or needle as celebrating the holy mysteries, or preaching to a native crowd. This quality of helpfulness, of universal sympathy, was what specially characterized him, "A regular shirt sleeve parson," one of his English parishioners had called him, and he acted out completely his own words, "Whatever comfort is wanted, whatever necessary must be provided, the missionary himself must scheme it out and see it procured." Thoroughly characteristic is the picture of him in a wheelwright's shop in Lincoln, "finding out what is the matter with the wheels we make at Mbweni," or visiting the brick kilns and insisting on going through all the processes himself. Characteristic again is his tender sympathy for his own staff, his eagerness to spare men, his ready counsel for practical or spiritual difficulties. One of his workers tells us how he complained to the bishop of losing interest in his work, and of finding his duty a burden. The bishop replied, "There was no merit in it when it was all a pleasure; there may be some now," and then added, "You know it would be nothing to offer