

MISSION TO SOUTH AFRICA.

At a meeting lately held in aid of the Mission to South Africa, the Rev. W. R. Beckett, who is connected with the Mission, gave a descriptive account of the part of Southern Africa under consideration. The Orange River was 700 miles from Capetown, and, as the distance was so great, the Clergy were unwilling to go there. When Bishop Twells took out with him two clergymen, and some catechists and school-masters, he found some thousands of English and Dutch there. The greater part of the English were merely nominal Christians, for the persons who went out there were those who cared least about religion. He regretted, however, that they could not have the blessings of the Christian mission,—if they had them at all, it was only in a very inadequate manner. In the Orange Free State, the country was 70,000 miles square, and the people were settled at considerable distances from one another, which was a great disadvantage to missionary work;—the small number of clergy could not afford such ministrations as were necessary, and it had been the Bishop's cry from the first that more men should be sent. Dr. Twells said, he was ready to attend them whenever they came, but as yet very few were found willing and able to go. From time to time the clergy in England had found young men willing to go, but their friends had objected to their leaving; they had found ties at home that prevented them from going, so that the continued cry for clergymen, and the objection of the clergy to go, crippled the energies of the Bishop in looking after the wants of his diocese. Some time ago he sent to his friends a proposal for a formation of a brotherhood of clergy and laity, who, going together, should support and strengthen one another, and at the same time promote the works of the Bishop wherever he might find opportunity for them. It had pleased God very recently to prosper this proposal. Some time ago he heard of a few young men who would like to join that brotherhood, and the next business was to find one to go out as their head. With some difficulty, one was found to undertake the office, and now four men were ready to go out, and three Undergraduates here were ready to follow. Thus there would be a partial supply, but still a very partial one indeed, for not only were there 8,000 Englishmen scattered about, but there were 50,000 Caffirs employed in the Free States as farm servants, mostly heathen. There was reason for hope, that if additional assistance was given, a very great number of Christians would soon be added. Of the 200,000 Basutos, most of them were still heathen, but many of them were ready to receive Christian enlightenment. Many of the natives were partially instructed in Christianity, the greater portion of them were not baptised, and they had not that full and pure form of Christianity that they would have if members of the Church, and that was a strong additional claim upon those at home, to send out relief to them. It was hard that one Deacon should be alone amongst so numerous a people, and he wanted that strength that could only be gained by one or more fellow-labourers. Mr. Beckett concluded by making an earnest appeal for aid.

Mr. Hubbard, M.P. followed in a highly interesting speech, announcing amidst applause that he and another gentleman had agreed to take a man and settle him at their own cost in the Orange Free States.

A BOY whose principles were correctly established, was pressed by others to take some pears, as nobody was there to see. "Yes there was," said he; "I was there to see myself; and I don't intend ever to see myself do a dishonest thing."