

Mission Field.

[From the S.P.G. Mission Field for June.]

It has been a most thankworthy Anniversary that the Society has just held. On May 9 there was a large congregation at St. Paul's Cathedral. The Archbishop of Canterbury celebrated the Holy Communion, and the Archbishop of York preached the sermon. There were, besides, fourteen bishops present, viz., the Bishops of London, Wakefield, Southwell, St. Albans, Colchester, Reading, Southwark, Capetown, Fredericton, Brisbane, North China, North Dakota, and Iowa, and Bishop Macrorie.

The sermon was on the words of the Gospel for the week: "He shall testify of Me: and ye also shall bear witness," (St. John xv. 26, 27), and the Archbishop, in expounding the meaning of the text, showed that, while England was proud of the growth of its commerce and Empire, there was a greater thing in the Church's growth. Wherever the Church spreads, there the sphere of the Holy Spirit's action is extended.

Reviewing the Society's work in several aspects, his Grace laid especial stress on its primary duty of helping the work of the Church among those of our own blood in foreign lands.

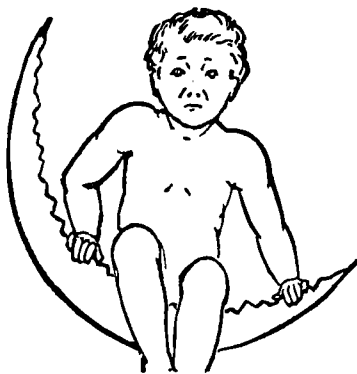
The sermon and the whole service were in every way most helpful, impressive and uplifting.

On the next day—Thursday, May 10,—the great meeting in St. James' Hall took place. The hall was full. Besides the President, there were sixteen bishops on the platform, viz., the Bishops of Wakefield, St. Albans, Colchester, Reading, Southwark, Capetown, North Dakota, Iowa, Lahore, Fredericton, North China, and Lebombo, and Bishops Selwyn, Macrorie, and Speechley. Among many other prominent persons were the Earl of Stamford, Lord Stanmore, and Sir George Grey, K.C.B. The presence of the latter, who has just arrived from New Zealand, was alluded to by the President, who, in the name of the Society, cordially greeted its aged Vice-President.

Of the Presidential Address we hope to give a fuller account next month. We may briefly note some of its leading points. In the first place his Grace expressed his high satisfaction at the Society's having recently devised a plan by which Missionary Associations for particular dioceses can be connected with it. He spoke of the need for ten additional missionaries for India; of the wisdom and conciliatory disposition of Bishop Baynes, and asked for the prayers of Churchmen at home in behalf of the Church in Natal; he described the reverent enthusiasm of the large congregation that witnessed the consecration of the Bishop of Honduras last December in the Church of St. Mary, Newington; and spoke of the crowded meeting in Exeter Hall in connection with the London S.P.G. Junior Clergy Association; the growth of the scientific

study of the subject of Missions, and the approaching Missionary Conference.

Before concluding his address the Archbishop made the sad announcement which solemnised and raised (so it seemed) the minds of the whole of the large assembly. He said that the Bishop of St. Albans had just received a telegram from Aden to the effect that Bishop Smythies had died and been buried at sea. His Grace then desired every one to stand while he said two prayers—one from the Burial Service and one of the Good Friday collects.



On the Ragged Edge

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