

MISSION FIELD.

NOTES FROM THE MISSION FIELD FOR NOVEMBER.

The death of Mr. Beresford-Hope removes from the ranks of the S.P.G. Society's Vice-Presidents one who, in a life devoted to many good works in the best interests of the Church at home, was likewise identified with the Society in more than one Missionary design. The early taste which he developed, while yet an undergraduate at Cambridge, for all that appertained to Ecclesiastical Archaeology, led in 1844 to his rescuing from the hand of the spoiler the venerable ruins of St. Augustine's Abbey at Canterbury. At an opportune moment he became by purchase the owner of the site, which he generously dedicated at once to the erection, in concert with his friend, the late Rev. E. Coleridge, of the well known College, which carries down to our own era the traditions of Canterbury from before the Conquest. It stands a living witness of what Christian munificence can effect when hallowed by the spirit of sacrifice and devotion—and rarely in our age of the Church has so rich and early a harvest been reaped from seed thus sown in simple faith not half a century ago.

At a later period, Mr. Beresford-Hope showed especial interest in the erection of the Memorial Church at Constantinople, in which the S.P.G. Society took the leading part, at the close of the Crimean War. He caused all the designs to be sent down into Kent, and, hanging them in the corridors of Bedgebury, he hospitably entertained the judges and members of the Standing Committee, who had been requested to decide upon the one to be selected. It was there that the first prize was awarded to the late Mr. W. Burgess. It is well known that the funds were not sufficient for the execution of a design so costly and gorgeous; but it was only with reluctance that Mr. Beresford-Hope subsequently admitted that the Society could only fall back upon that which had gained the second prize in the competition.

Mr. Beresford-Hope was elected a Vice-President of the Society in 1862, and though his multifarious public duties did not admit of his being a regular attendant at the meetings of the Standing Committee, yet his voice and influence were always at its disposal. It is, however, his connection with St. Augustine's which will ever entitle him to grateful remembrance in the Missionary annals of the nineteenth century; and there is scarcely a colonial diocese in which the news of his departure hence will not be received with peculiar regret by many who have owed their early training at Canterbury for the work of the Church abroad to his fostering care and munificence.

Farewell was taken of several Missionaries about to sail from England at the S.P.G. Society's house on Wednesday, September

28, when there was a celebration of the Holy Communion in the Chapel. The sermon or address was delivered by Professor Westcott, the father of one of those about to set forth. It was a beautiful devotional meditation on the threefold subject of "the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ," "the strength of all work for God," "the love of God," the motive; and the "communion of the Holy Ghost," the end. Forty persons communicated.

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