

Mission Field.

[Notes for October from S. P. G. Mission Field.]

At the end of September, we are sorry to say, the Society's income was still behindhand by more than two thousand pounds as compared with last year. During the first half of October special donations, amounting to about £1,700 were received. But for purposes of comparison we must reckon against these an exceptional receipt of £1,000 last year. We know that "times are bad," but none the less we appeal with earnestness and confidence to our friends to make great efforts before the close of the year. The greater the difficulty the more need there is for strenuous endeavor. We are assured that those who know what the Society has to do, and have some share of the missionary spirit, will take care that such a cause is upheld.

LEOMBO Diocese had its first Bishop consecrated on Sunday, November 5th. It has already had the advantage of the presence of its Bishop-designate, one of whose interesting letters we print in our present number. This large tract of Eastern Africa, and the first Bishop, should enjoy the intercessions of the Church at home.

The Society has sustained a heavy loss by the recent death of the Rev. J. W. Irving, Rector of Broughton, one of the oldest clergymen in the Diocese of Oxford, and one of the most devoted and enthusiastic supporters of Mission work in all parts of the world. Mr. Irving, although he had attained the ripe age of 85, was to the last an active and energetic secretary for the Bletchley Rural Deanery. So recently as the end of last August he had organised an S.P.G. Garden Meeting; and although from increasing deafness he could not hear all that was said, his interest in the proceedings never flagged from beginning to end. Those who had the privilege of being Mr. Irving's guests and being with him in his study will long remember how Mission work was the absorbing topic of conversation, when book after book bearing on various aspects of Missionary labour was taken down from the study shelves. Whether in the older Missions of India or in the development of the Archbishop's Mission to the Assyrian Christians, he was equally interested, and he gave practical proof of the catholicity of his Missionary spirit by the erection in the parish church in which he had officiated for fifty years of a memorial window, wherein he had commemorated the martyrdom of two distinguished representatives of the two great Church Missionary Societies, viz.: Bishop Patteson and Bishop Hannington; and in his own family worship he regularly prayed, not only for those who were in the Mission, but for those travelling by land or by water to the scene of their

labors. Dangers by sea did overtake some who had been his visitors, and in the hour of peril one is recorded to have said to another, "Be of good cheer; one family in England at least will be praying for us." His house was ever the hospitable home of the deputations, and his carriages and horses were always ungrudgingly placed at their disposal. The announcement of his death will be read by many a missionary abroad, and they will sorrow to feel that they will never see him again at his well-loved work, of which the memory will long survive among them.

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APPOINTED UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE

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THE ADVENT NUMBER, ISSUED 15TH NOVEMBER, BEGINS THE EIGHTH VOLUME OF THE TEACHERS' ASSISTANT, a periodical intended to help our Sunday-School Teachers in their work for the Church, and to form a bond of union and a means of communication between those who, though divided by the bounds of parishes, dioceses, and even Ecclesiastical Provinces, are still one, members of the one Holy Catholic Church, and fellow-workers in the one good work of feeding her lambs.

The need for such a Magazine was abundantly demonstrated before its publication was undertaken, and the difficulty of supplying that need was not underestimated. The result, however, has been most satisfactory and encouraging. From every quarter come testimonies to the helpfulness, and indeed to the indispensability of the "TEACHERS' ASSISTANT."

This year it will, we hope, be better than ever.

The Inter-Diocesan Sunday-School Committee (at the suggestion of many Sunday-School workers who feel that the satisfactory teaching of a double lesson within the limits of a Sunday-School Session is a practical impossibility), have this year given us but one set of lessons; and these are a happy combination of Bible and Prayer Book, "The Teachings of the Church's Year."

Already the Church of England Sunday-School Institute, and the Inter-Diocesan Committee of the American Church have found that two sets of lessons cannot well be taught at a single Sunday session, and both have adopted the single lesson plan, now for the first time to be put in operation in Canada.

The "Lesson Sketches" are by the Rev. A. Cluny Macpherson, author of the well-known Manual "Lessons on the Book of Common Prayer."

These are accompanied by a series of "Side-Lights and Illustrations on the Lessons," prepared by the Rev. Robert Resker, Vicar of Purley, in Surrey, a well-known and welcome contributor for several years past to the Church of England Sunday-School Institute Magazine.

It is confidently hoped that the Lesson Sketches for 1893-4, will be found in every respect equal, if not superior to those which during the past seven years, have appeared in the pages of the "TEACHERS' ASSISTANT."

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