

## MISSION FIELD.

We commend the following Notes of the Month of October, taken from *The Mission Field*, one of the organs of the S.P.G., to the careful attention of the several dioceses of the Ecclesiastical Province, and ask whether it is not urgently necessary that assistance for Diocesan work should not be longer received from this noble Society:

At this time of year an additional appeal is usually made on behalf of the Society's fund in connection with the Harvest Thanksgivings. Grateful praise for the fruits of the earth, it is hoped, will find its fitting accompaniment in offerings to increase the harvest of God. That the Society's appeal is an urgent one is a plain fact which cannot be too strongly stated.

In the first place, the receipts during the current year are below the average of recent years. It is possible to lay too much stress on the Monthly Statements issued by the Treasurers, for the bulk of the Society's Income only reaches them at the close of the year. The amounts received during the earlier months of the year are not therefore very suitable for the purposes of comparison. At the same time, a considerable deficiency cannot but awaken grave anxiety, lest the months already past should be indicative (as so often happens) of the character of those yet remaining; or, at any rate, lest the amount lacking should not be made up before the year closes.

Should such fears unhappily be realised, what could be more deplorable? In all parts of the world the Society's grants are incapable of diminution without, in almost every case, the gravest injury and mischief. And, on the other hand, increased help is called for with such strong reason, that its refusal would be a reproach to the Church of England.

We hardly like to particularize any fields of work, as being most in need. The choice between them is the anxious task of the Committee which annually weighs their relative claims. But speaking broadly—there are colonies such as Northwest Canada, where rapid settlement strains the resources of the Society to the utmost; there are new Mission fields among the heathen constantly offering opportunities, which will pass if not at once seized; there are existing Missions, such as many in the Madras diocese, and Japan, where work already done demands that it should be vigorously followed up, and where a readiness and even eagerness, to receive Christian instruction is manifested that is marvellous. Previous labours, and the indirect action of political and social changes, combined, we cannot doubt, with a spirit of movement beyond what is imparted by the external action of Divine providence, render the present time one of unrivalled importance in the history of Missions. To fail to be equal to

it would be a failure injurious to a Church so lukewarm to the cause of its Lord as to be capable of the neglect, no less than to the Missions which it would leave unable to do the work lying ready to their hands.

For the sake of the spiritual life of the Church at home as much almost as for the urgent needs abroad, more—much more—should be done for the Missionary cause. The Society is charged with the work of carrying on the Missionary work of the Church of England, as representative of no section of it, but the whole, and as watching over the needs of Colonial and Missionary work in all parts of the world. As a matter of fact, more than eight thousand parishes give it some measure of support—and what is the result? Can it be thought that with every imaginable excuse taken into account—badness of trade; numerous appeals to charity; the support given to other Missionary societies; the needs of the Church at home; or whatever may be alleged—that the sum of £78,000, as subscriptions, donations, and collections for the General Fund, is anything like what the Church of England should entrust to the Society for the extension of the Kingdom of Christ? How great is the need for an increase of the Missionary spirit!

For the moment we must ask—and ask earnestly—for immediate help to make up the current year's income.

## UGANDA.

The Church Missionary Society has received letters giving painful details of the massacre of native Christians in Uganda by order of King Mwanga, telegraphic intelligence of which was received on the 23rd of September. The persecution broke out in June in consequence of a Christian boy, one of the king's pages, refusing to commit an abominable crime. Many were tortured, mutilated and speared, and thirty-two were burnt alive together. The intercessions of the missionaries were of no avail. Most touching accounts are given of the steadfastness of the victims, and the massacres seem to have quite failed to intimidate the candidates for baptism. Within a week or two after several converts were baptised at their own earnest desire. Meanwhile, the printing and circulation of passages of Scripture, prayers, hymns, &c., in the language of Uganda, went on without intermission; and of some of the papers thus printed several editions have been sold to willing purchasers, although the very possession of a Christian leaflet is a source of danger.

It is stated in *Medical Missions at Home and Abroad*, that an active movement in favor of Christianity is going on among the Chuhra (people of the lowest caste) in the Punjab. Hearing of a religion that had no respect of persons, but that welcomed and tried to do good to all alike, they asked the mission-

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aries for special instruction. In response to the appeal the women are now being taught, schools have been started, catechists are working amongst the men, and hymns in Punjabi have been composed. The people have taken most warmly to Christian hymn-singing, and have taken most warmly to Christian hymn-singing, and have assembled, with their rude instruments, night after night to be taught to sing and play.

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