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AND MISSION NEWS

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THE CHURCH AND THE EMPIRE.



THE imperial spirit is abroad, and we are all engaged in considering the nature of the ties which bind our colonies to us. Ties of kinship, of language, and of law we all can recognize; but there is another bond which is often forgotten—the Church. Our colonists are not all of British blood. They do not speak the same tongue; they do not all own the same code of laws; neither, we need hardly say, are they all members of the same church; but, nevertheless a common Churchmanship, though all do not share in it, adds one more to the binding ties of empire. This being so, the Rev. Bernard Wilson's article upon "The Church and the Empire," which forms one of the interesting series published under the title of "Church Problems," comes opportunely and in season. Our Church, in its times of true vitality has always possessed the missionary spirit. Indeed, it has often outrun the flag, and carried the Cross to the people owing no allegiance to the sceptre of England. Patrick, Ninian, Columba, and Boniface are all names honored in its history, and the evangelizing energy of these and of others has borne fruit, amid many difficulties, in many lands. To-day their successors are carrying on a like work under like difficulties, though the empire seldom recognized how much its width and solidity owe to their labors.

It is the fashion of the hour to criticise, and

missionaries, however self-denying and invaluable, cannot expect to escape their share—it is not their meed—of criticism. Truth to tell, the Church's record has not always been one of progress. Crusades and civil wars, foreign complications and monetary difficulties, a lack of zeal among the rank and file, and a slothful indifference in high places, have all, in their turn, been the foes of missionary enterprise. The Church, for instance, failed to keep pace with the great expansion of national life which followed so closely upon the voyages of Drake. The few were persistent, but the many failed to realize the duty owed to the English settlers in the new found lands, and the American colonies, to the empire's loss, were for two centuries denied the right of full Church organization. Again, Australia was for long but little better treated. Upon her annexation in 1787 a great field was opened—opened only to be left for many years almost uncultivated. A community of criminals was left without the humanizing influences of religion, and when, in 1836, the first Bishop was consecrated, vast arrears of work had to be overtaken. India, too, suffered from a similar neglect—a neglect nobly atoned for since the mutiny awoke our people to the vital necessity of fulfilling their imperial responsibilities. The Church has a far higher and nobler mission than the consolidation of empire, but its power to help in moulding aright our imperial development cannot be gainsaid. We owe it, in great degree, to our missionaries, that to the losses of the present war have not been added all the unspeakable horrors which would follow if Zulus, Kaffirs, and Basutos were to be let loose upon the field of battle. We trust that the Churchmen of to-day will do their best to aid the Church in fulfilling its Imperial mission.

—Church Bells.

ACCORDING to the July American Church S.S. Magazine the total offering for Missions the whole year from May 1st, 1899 to May 1st, 1900 from the Sunday schools in the Diocese of Pennsylvania amounts to \$26,613.54 and the total Lenten offering alone to \$20,106.89. The assistant Treasurer of the D. & F. of the P.E. Church in the United States referring to the Lenten offering says under date June 6th, "At the end of the seventh week last Saturday night we had received \$62,153.60 from 2702 Sunday Schools; an average of about \$23.00 per school." In 1889 for the same period there was received 52,084.46 from 2524 schools, an average of about \$20.64 per school. The total advance this year over last year for the same length of time after Easter amounts to \$10,000, and the treasurer adds this looks a good deal like getting the \$100,000 this time.