

FROM S.P.G. MISSION FIELD NOTES FOR SEPTEMBER.

FROM the Bishop of Mashonaland we have received the photograph from which the accompanying illustration is taken. About it his lordship sends the following most interesting note :

"Here is a specimen of an Apostolic hut, such as St. Patrick, St. Aidan, St. Columba or St. Benedict must have built by dozens all over England, Ireland and Scotland and Europe hundreds of years ago. From such beginnings arose Iona, Lindisfarne, Glasstonbury, Westminster Abbey, and all our cathedrals. Think of this, and believe in the future however small the present. Already, within six months, we at the Bulawayo Native Location are begging for burnt bricks for a more permanent building (the second stage to-



THE FIRST NATIVE CHURCH OF BULAWAYO.

wards the future abbey). One white man has given his native brethren 2,000, and a colored man, a communicant, 3,000. So we are getting on, and S.P.G. has given £20 to encourage us. We have only as yet three native communicants (including the catechist), but we shall grow. Josiah Kubavane is our catechist and school teacher. He came from the Diocese of St. John's. So those who helped St. John's Diocese years ago are helping us now. Seed sown, grows and gets disseminated. Think of an English seed-grower's seeds, and where they go and produce fruit. So the Society propagates the Gospel throughout the world, making the wilderness flourish and blossom like the rose."

WITH regard to the Railway Mission in Mashonaland the Bishop writes :

"We are now regularly at work between Bulawayo and Mochudi, visiting the men and holding services, and hope to have a church railway van, with library, etc., soon on the rails. The travelling priest (Rev. N. W. Fogarty) is ubiquitous, and knows how to curl himself up in the middle of the night at a siding or ganger's cottage till the train comes along and picks him up to set him down further on."

HERSCHEL district is as purely "native" as any part of Cape Colony, for it contains about 26,000 natives and only 130 Europeans. It is in the Diocese of Grahamstown, and the Rev. S. W. Cox, the missionary, reports new openings in two directions. They seem to be very encouraging.

"I have to report the commencement of work in a locality quite neglected, and amongst a very wild set of Tamybookies. My experience amongst this tribe in other parts of the district has not been very encouraging. They cling more tenaciously than any other tribe to their old heathen customs, but I stipulated that before placing a catechist-teacher with them they should provide enough stone for a building and pay for its erection. This they have done, and I have provided windows and timber for the roof. They have promised to find £10 a year for the teacher, who is already with them; he tells me he has twenty children in school, and what is more, has had large congregations on the last two Sundays.

"For many years past I have been trying to bring into the Church some half-caste people who live within a few minutes' walk of the Mission church, but until this year have failed. The older members remain obdurate, but on Easter Eve four young people were baptized after a year's preparation and three of their children on Easter Monday."

POVERTY does not always starve the heart, nor failure of means diminish thankofferings. It is a thing for which the grace of God should be praised that Mr. Cox could write thus :—

"We are passing through a time of great scarcity in food, but the offerings of the people for the Diocesan Native Ministry Fund have been far larger during the last six months than ever before. I have noticed the same thing in other years of scarcity."

LORD READY, formerly Governor of Bombay, states that when he was in India he watched carefully the work pursued by missionaries, and he is "convinced that there is no work more arduous, no work requiring more faith, no work pursued very often under circumstances of greater discouragement, than that of those whom we send out as missionaries, and therefore it is one of our first duties to give them all the support and all the encouragement that we can."

NOT one man in a thousand dies a natural death, and most diseases have their rise from intemperance.—Lord Bacon.