

is one of singular beauty, and its courtyard pleasantly shaded with trees, and there is plenty of water. There is a fine tomb within the enclosure. The visit to Acre closed the list of stations and out-stations of the C.M.S. visited by the Bishop.

Although it is not yet apparent that there is any distinct change in the views of the society as to proselytism, it is satisfactory to notice that there is an indication which may herald this desirable change. In all the missions there is greater attention paid than formerly to the professed and legitimate missionary aim of the society, and this may in time centre its efforts upon this aim. The relative number of children in the schools shows that some attention is being given to this. The medical work at Nablous has already been cited as of great promise, though the society's grant of money is not as generous as it ought to be, and perhaps may be. The same result would attach to such work anywhere. There was at one station a candidate announced for confirmation who had received the Chrism. The Bishop decided that this candidate should not be presented. It was afterwards objected that he had not walked after the Lambeth 'Advice.' But the Bishop explained that he had exactly done so, inasmuch as the candidate had expressed no personal request in the matter, and that therefore he had not had to decide whether he considered such request suitable. It was on another occasion agreeable to hear from a large gathering of native Christians that the Bishop's decision not to confirm those who have received the Chrism was generally satisfactory to native Churchmen, as those who came in from Eastern Churches had no desire that discredit should be cast on the ordinances of the Church they had for divers reasons left by what (to the Eastern mind) would be re-confirmation.

The Bishop's party went forward to Beyrout, by Tyre and Sidon. These are now considerable towns of 4,000 and 8,000 souls respectively. At Tyre, Origen is buried within the ruined cathedral, at the consecration of which Eusebius of Casarea preached the sermon. The great tomb of Hiram, Solomon's ally, is close to Tyre. Sidon is a most attractive place, and the ancient Crusaders' fortifications very interesting; they include a fine tower of Louis IX. on the south of the town, and a strikingly beautiful castle in the harbour, with a fortified causeway connecting the island on which it stands with the shore. The Bishop spent part of the Holy Week and Easter Day at Beyrout. The services were well attended. The chaplaincy has gained much ground during the past two years, and, though the number of 78 communicants on Easter Day included some English travellers (for whose benefit, indeed, as well as that of the residents, the chaplaincy was founded in 1887), it is an encouraging indication of progress. There has been a change of chaplains lately; the Rev. A. H. Kelk has returned to the diocese of York, to Sheffield, after three years' valuable work in Syria, and is succeeded by the Rev. J. M. Whitehead, curate of Margate, who has evidently thrown his heart into his work at Beyrout and attracted the hearts of others. The Bishop of Beyrout was called upon on Easter Monday; but, unfortunately, he too was out making Easter visits. He is a diligent and earnest Diocesan. The Bishop's visit to Beyrout included an official call on the Governor-General of Beyrout with Colonel Trotter, our Consul-General. The Wali is an able and courteous man, who has lately assumed office. The conversation turned on the new order (which, it is hoped, the influence of the representatives of the nations concerned may induce the Porte to rescind) for the closing of Christian schools which have no firman. The firman has always been very difficult to obtain, being a matter of much time and heavy fees. Most schools have been blandly allowed to be opened without official sanction, partly with an eye to the convenience of closing them. Their being now closed, however, is an infringement in many cases of existing treaties. It is also illiberal, as the subjects of the Sultan have profited greatly by the European or American schools within the Empire. For those of the C.M.S., which the Bishop instanced in Palestine, the Governor-General proposed a most sensible plan—that the details of English schools should be sent to him, and registered. To this the Bishop assented, and promised to send, through the Consul-General's office, the list of schools within the Wali's government. The present irritating interference on the part of petty governors may thus, it is hoped, be happily ended.

Bishop Blyth left Beyrout for Egypt on Easter Tuesday, to visit congregations and other interests of the Anglican Church in that country. These are multiplying and increasing in importance to a degree which makes them a very serious and anxious charge. The vast number of travellers who visit Egypt renders necessary the provision of season chaplaincies, which are not very readily formed; and the small and scattered congregations of Englishmen along the lines of railway call for the appointment of a travelling chaplain, who might visit them in turn. But such a chaplaincy will be expensive, and funds for its formation are not yet in view. The generosity of Messrs. Cook & Son arranges for a season chaplaincy

at Luxor, as does that of the proprietor of 'Mena House,' at the Pyramids of Ghizeh, for the numbers who visit that popular hotel. There have been daily services, well attended, and a large congregation on Sundays at 'Mena House' for the last several seasons. There is now a suitable and well appointed separate building, which is used as a chapel. Many of the visitors, both at 'Mena House' and at Luxor, are invalids, so the provision of a chaplain is as necessary as that of a doctor.

The chaplaincy of Port Said is becoming well known. Its many branches of work are very diligently tended by Mr. Strange, who has for so many years filled this difficult post, and made it what it is. The Bishop spent a day there, and confirmed seven persons. The interior of the church has been improved, but funds for this purpose are much wanted. The hearty singing and responding of English sailors make the Sunday services very interesting. At the other end of the canal the port of Suez has at last been provided with a chaplain. The newly consecrated church of Ramleh, near Alexandria, has been much beautified by the gifts of good glass windows, and of a marble font, and by the addition of costly walnut panelling, choir seats, and pulpit in the chancel. The site for a parsonage, with nearly sufficient for its erection, is acquired; and when there is a resident chaplain the value of this beautiful church will be greatly increased. The Sunday congregations are large, and the services of Mr. Lawrence (including his children's services) are well appreciated. How he manages to carry on this work so efficiently from Alexandria, in addition to his own large labours, is a mystery of will and energy. There are some men who work to the better advantage under the heavier pressure, and seem to have no sympathy with the weight-bearing camel of the country, which gives way under a 'last ounce.' Still, beyond question the increasing size of Ramleh calls for the daily ministrations of a resident priest.

The main centres of work in Egypt are Cairo and Alexandria. At Cairo a good deal has been done during the past year. The station church has been considerably enlarged by the addition of half an aisle, or a wing, both north and south. But it is found that this is not sufficient, and a further enlargement in completion of the work is now in progress. A visit to Egypt is positively exhilarating; Cairo, Alexandria, Ramleh, Port Said, Suez, are all giving evidence of zeal and progress, and by their example should be 'provoking very many' to works of charity and mercy. The church at Cairo has also been greatly enriched by the gift of a costly reredos of alabaster, the memorial of sorrowing parents to their lost son. The effect of it is very good. There are few churches out of England in which there is so much really good stained glass as at All Saints', Cairo; and there are also some good military monuments, both marble and brass. The work of the chaplain is very heavy indeed during the season, although clerical travellers are many and helpful; but the ubiquitous and sympathetic Archdeacon manages to leave some kindly remembrance of himself and his church in the hearts of most English and American visitors who give him a chance of seeing them. There is a brotherly intercourse in work between the civil Chaplain and the Chaplain to the Forces at Cairo, as also at Alexandria. The presence of red-coats in the congregation and in the choir (this year it has become a surpliced choir, with also a choir guild, affiliating it to an English association) is pleasant to see; and the earnestness of the soldier candidates at a large confirmation which the Bishop held at All Saints' gave—what is happily often seen amongst young soldiers—evidence of the careful preparation of the Chaplain to the Forces.

The Bishop, with several of his clergy, had the opportunity of a very pleasant visit to the Patriarch Sophronios of Alexandria, who was at Cairo for visitation, and to call on the new Khedive. The Patriarch was said to be ninety-five when the Bishop first saw him in 1887; he is certainly five years younger to-day in health and vigour of mind. His sonorous voice has a very hearty ring in it, especially when he is saying kind and brotherly words about his respect and love for the Anglican Church. The Coptic Patriarch was absent from Cairo, but the Bishop was able to pay a short visit to the new work taken up by the English Society for the 'Furtherance of Christianity in Egypt.' This association has made a new and apparently successful start. At the invitation of the managers of the Iktissad School, they have sent out a first-rate English trained schoolmaster, Mr. Norman, who is at present solving satisfactorily the difficulty of working with (avoiding under) a native committee. There is much hope that the system of educational aid (combining Bible and Church history teaching, without doctrinal interference) will be a valued assistance to the Copts. It is given at their request, and carried out on their general plan. We have just now calls from other Eastern Churches to undertake a kindred educational work in other parts of the East.

The C. M. S. has made some progress at Cairo; their staff has been strengthened, and the Medical

Mission seems to be taking root. It may become very valuable. They have got a good and commodious house in Cairo, and one also in Old Cairo, where there is a chapel, in which the Bishop held a small but singularly interesting confirmation. The Mission staff maintain very friendly relations with other English workers in Cairo. The Mission is at present on a small scale.

The Bishop visited also Miss Whately's well-known schools. The present manager (her adopted daughter) has tried to carry them on on the same lines as those of Miss Whately, and with much the same staff. But the staff is reduced, and the scholars also, and the Government report is unfavourable to them. The English committee cannot act with the present management, and a strong local committee (with even Sir Evelyn Baring and Sir Colin Scott-Moncrieff and Archdeacon Butcher amongst them) tried to revive the schools. They had also the help of the Hon. Miss Vernon, whose experience in the East is unique, as their representative. But all in vain; they had not a free hand. It is painful and humiliating to see these grand schools, which the Bishop first visited with the foundress, dying the death of a disgraceful feebleness. What is wanted is a firm local management, and a good English head-master; the rest of the staff might hold on. Miss Whately's lines were in the main judicious and successful, and they would succeed again. But should the schools fall into missionary hands (either English or American), they would be involved in difficulties, and their personal character would be effaced. The Mahomedans would also be in opposition, and the Copts (who are rising in power and intelligence, and are well represented in the administration of the country) would resent a 'proselytising' use of school influence. Such a course as that adopted by the 'Furtherance Association' above mentioned might succeed. It is not really foreign to Miss Whately's line, whilst the indirect missionary openings might satisfy the most ardent desire for spiritual harvests. It remains to be seen if Miss Whately's honoured name and real work are more valued than party considerations by those who represent her in England.

The Bishop was greatly pleased and satisfied with the progress and condition of the Jewish mission at Cairo. Mr. Odeh has proved a diligent organizer and administrator. Miss Allen has got a large school for Jewesses, and other girls who are able to pay fees, in addition to the now large free schools of the mission. The daily services in the mission chapel (which has been much beautified) have been maintained. The limit to progress is only that of the means at the Bishop's disposal. The P.M.J. of London makes a block grant of £240 to this mission, which is most helpful. The success of this work is very encouraging to all connected with it. The present expenditure of £850 may advantageously be doubled as funds come in.

The Bishop went from Cairo to Alexandria. Here, again, the chaplaincy is showing signs of life and progress. Mr. Davis, who has been the chaplain for nearly 30 years, has just re-pewed the church. The new sittings are a great improvement both in appearance and comfort; he has also introduced a system of ventilation, which is effective. The choir is unusually good, and the organ (a very fine one) is admirably played. The east end of the church has been brightened by some good needlework, and a very beautiful set of altar linen worked by a lady of the congregation has been given.

The Bishop was made aware of the effects of a working Monday of the Charitable Society, of which Mr. Davis and Consul Sir C. Cookson are the prime movers. The chaplain's house was literally besieged for more than an hour by applicants. The society has done much real good for many years. It gives, without limitation of creed, to all to whom it can give relief; and if Alexandria boasts of its merchant princes, it has also its vast host of the destitute, unthrifty, and evilly living poor. Mr. Rudolph represents also a system of relief, with a soup kitchen for poor Jews.

The demand for work amongst Jews at Alexandria is really imperative. It requires not only the usual branches of missionary work, but lady workers also. An efficient 'rescue work' might save many young lives and souls.

The Bishop had the opportunity of visiting the Khedive while at Cairo. He had a private interview and the advantage of an introduction by Sir Evelyn Baring (Lord Cromer).

Home & Foreign Church Notes

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.

QUEBEC.

Church House.—His Lordship the Bishop of the Diocese has appointed the Rev. A. J. Balfour, M.A., rector of St. Peter's Church, the corresponding secretary of the Church House, London, Eng. A com-

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