

SIDE-LIGHTS ON FOREIGN MISSIONS.

BY THE REV. A. R. BUCKLAND, M.A.,

Morning Preacher at the Foundling Hospital.

II.—MISSIONS AND COLONISTS.

AMONGST the facts about Foreign Missions which often escape fair recognition at home, is the relation between the work of missions and the spiritual welfare of colonists and others of our countrymen abroad. People occasionally remember that in some of our colonies isolated groups of settlers, or even single families, are often out of reach of any Church or resident clergy; but it is commonly forgotten that many colonists owe such ministrations as are within their reach to the agents of the Church's missionary societies, and further, that organized efforts to supply spiritual aid to colonists are in their origin and in actual work closely connected with missions to the heathen.

The connection between the two is a very natural one and has always been recognised. The work of the venerable Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge has from its foundation in 1698 remembered the dwellers in our dependencies and colonies as well as the mission-field. When the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts was incorporated in the year 1701 it was for the purpose of aiding "the Queen's subjects beyond the seas; for the maintenance of clergymen in the plantations, colonies, and factories of Great Britain; and for the propagation of the Gospel in those parts." But from its first efforts it has steadily aimed at the conversion of the heathen as well as the aid and care of our own people abroad. A single land, very much in our minds of late, will show how

this double duty has been carried out. The Society sent a chaplain to Cape Colony as early as 1825. When Bishop Gray was consecrated in 1847, it immediately strengthened his hands by large grants, including a thousand pounds towards the endowment of a college. For years the Society was responsible for the stipend of a bishop for the Orange Free State, and sent liberal aid to the missions in that diocese. The work in Zululand began under the auspices of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel. In the thirteen African dioceses in which the Society was at work last year, both missionary and colonial work were being helped side by side.

The Church Missionary Society in principle confines its work entirely to the heathen and Mohammedan work. But, whilst not setting the help of colonists and other English people before it as an aim, it is able to render them much aid. The life of Bishop Horden upon the shores of the Hudson's Bay is a familiar illustration of the way in which the missionary to the heathen may also be the parish clergyman of the colonists and traders dwelling within reach. The 1896 report of the Society bears repeated witness to the services rendered by the missionaries to the scattered Europeans to be found in most inaccessible corners of the far North-West. From Africa we read of services conducted for marines landed to protect a town on the east coast. From Nagasaki, Japan, we hear of sailors coming gladly to services arranged for them. These are but scattered notices of