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mere nominal jurisdiction of the bishop of London. Thus Queen Victoria had only been reigning five years when it was found that the church was strengthened abroad by the establishment of nine new dioceses.

Our attention is now called to the somewhat ancient Diocese of Calcutta, for it is a melancholy thought that we have to consider any colonial or foreign diocese established before the Victorian age as ancient. Heber has immortalized the island of Ceylon :

"What though the spicy breezes
Blow soft o'er Ceylon's isle,
Tho' every prospect pleases,
And only man is vile."

And here it was felt a bishop was needed. The work was languishing for the need of episcopal supervision and energy; and accordingly a bishopric was established in the year 1845 in Colombo, the capital of the fragrant isle. In the same year the still more ancient Diocese of Nova Scotia, the most ancient indeed of all, going back for the inception of its history even to the eighteenth century (1787), was relieved of a large territory by the establishment of the Diocese of Fredericton, with the Rt. Rev. John Medley as its first bishop.

St. Peter's day, 1847, marked a great epoch for the English Church, for on that day, in Westminster Abbey, four men, each possessing singular gifts and graces, with bright home prospects in store for them, sufficient to tempt them to remain in their native land, were consecrated bishops, for four new colonial sees. Among these was Dr. Robert Gray, whose destination was Capetown, in the southern part of Africa. Here was the opening of a great work, and a worthy man was sent to inaugurate it. The Dark Continent as yet was largely an unexplored region, but the light of the Gospel was here and there struggling, however feebly, among the natives as dark bodily and spiritually as was the vast territory itself. But Capetown had become a British colony, and as such required a British bishop. The other three dioceses established in that year were all in Australia — Melbourne and

Newcastle in the southeast, and Adelaide in the centre and southern part of the continent. Thus fifteen new dioceses marked the first decade of the Victorian age.

By this time it may be said that the home feeling in England was that the surest way to help the church in the colonies was to establish bishoprics. This policy was now well established, and it only needed time to produce its development. In 1849 the principle extended itself to Hong Kong, to which place a bishop was sent, and thus episcopal supervision was commenced among the Chinese—a feeble beginning, it is true, yet a beginning is necessary for all work. In the same year, Bishop George J. Moun-