

Mission Field.

[From our English Correspondent.]

CEYLON.

The Metropolitan attended the Diocesan Synod of Ceylon at the end of September. In his address he compared the Diocese of Colombo with Calcutta, and observed that in Ceylon the missionary work was more happily combined with the pastoral and parochial work than in his own diocese. On the other hand he thought the diocesan organization was less satisfactory, and that their central board was not so regularly informed of the details of the missionary, educational and Church extension work throughout the Diocese, as they were in Calcutta. He maintained that on the occasion of the Bishop's visit, the collection should be made for the general needs of the diocese, and not for any local object. The Bishop of Colombo in taking leave of the Synod on the eve of his departure to England spoke gratefully of the support which he had received, and emphasized the remarks of the Metropolitan on the need of a closer connection between the Standing committee and the parochial work of the clergy, in order that the local efforts might be gathered in and made diocesan.

Mr. Macrae in an article contributed to the *Vepez Magazine* gives a vivid description of the scenery of the hill station of Nowera Eliza, and the remarkable railway route by which it is reached, involving an ascent of 5,500 feet. The church stands on the slopes of Mount Pedro, which towers above to a height of 8,200 ft. On December 11th Colombo was visited by the Bishops of Salisbury and Brisbane, and the Bishop elect of Wellington, New Zealand, on their way from England to Australia. The Bishops attended the service at the Cathedral, and an address was given by the Bishop of Salisbury on the words, 'Whom seek ye?' and 'What is truth?' from St. John xviii. 4, 38. The Bishop also attended the ceremony of the laying of the first stone of the new breakwater.

CHINA.

The Japanese invasion has interfered with the operations of the North China Church Mission, the Rev. W. Breton, and the lady medical missionary, Miss Marston, being compelled to withdraw from Peking and to take refuge at Tientsin. The journey was accomplished between October 7th and 9th. Tientsin was crowded with refugees, and amongst the missionaries there was Mrs. Bishop, the well-known traveller, and two other ladies. There were fears for Chefoo, but the Japanese assault was diverted to Port Arthur on the opposite side of the gulf, so that the mission party there were reported to be free from any immediate danger; but no work could be undertaken in the country villages and hamlets, or in any place outside the treaty ports. Bishop Scott accomplished his return voyage in

November, taking the services in St. Paul's, Vancouver, on Sunday, the 11th, and embarking on his way across the Pacific on the Monday following.

Bishop Corfe writes of the hostile feeling of the Koreans towards the Japanese invaders, and anticipates a stubborn opposition to the new constitution, which is of Japanese manufacture, though nominally issued by the king's authority. Under its provisions Buddhism will gain new privileges, and establish itself in the towns. The new law will also abolish the distinction between the children of concubines and those of the lawful wife as hitherto recognised in Corea.

MISSION WORK IN MAURITIUS.

In his appeal (recently published in the "Record") the Bishop, after gratefully acknowledging the assistance given by the various Church societies, and stating the increased staff of the Church of Rome proceeds:—

"That there is a work going, forward which is worth sustaining and extending the following facts will abundantly suffice to prove. During my two recent visits to Seychelles, with an interval of one year between them, I had the privilege of confirming 334 candidates, and on one Sunday morning at Mahe administered Holy Communion to 170 persons, to say nothing of other largely-attended Communion in the same church and in other places. My desire is to establish a special Seychelles Fund. I am very anxious to invest the £600 given by the C.M.S. (granted on withdrawal from regular work in Mahe) as the nucleus of an endowment to perpetuate the work inaugurated and carried on by the society; but I shall be obliged to spend it on current expenses, especially for the support of orphan and necessitous children, if I cannot secure support for such a fund as I propose. With £100 a year, in addition to the subscriptions already given, things can be kept going as they are; with a second £100 a year substantial progress may be looked for. Surely this is not much to ask?"

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THIS is one of the most important books undertaken by the Society during the year—and may be regarded as the book of the Season. It is a translation of the *magnum opus* of Professor Maspero 'Les Origines.' This Volume, which will appear simultaneously in Paris, London, and New York, is an attempt to put together in a lucid and interesting manner all that the monuments have revealed to us concerning the earliest civilisation of Egypt and Chaldæa.

The results of archaeological discovery in Egypt and Chaldæa, accumulated during the last thirty years or so, are of such a vast and comprehensive character that none but a master mind could marshal them in true historical perspective. Professor Maspero is, perhaps, the only man in Europe fitted by his laborious researches and great scholarship to undertake such a task, and the result of his efforts will soon be before the world in "THE DAWN OF CIVILIZATION." It will be a large volume of more than 800 pages of the size of 8 by 4 in., and will contain over 470 illustrations all expressly engraved for the book. The period dealt with covers the history of Egypt from the earliest date to the fourteenth dynasty, and that of Chaldæa during its first Empire. The aspect of the valleys of the Nile and the Euphrates, their climate, their productions, religion, manners and customs, the organisation of their respective States, their traditions, and all that is known of their kings and dynasties down to the twenty-fourth century before our era, will be dealt with in this volume. The points of contact with Bible History, if not chronological, are illustrative. The pictures of Egyptian life prepare one for entering more intelligently into the historical portions of the Pentateuch, while the Chaldean account of the Deluge, and the whole religious system of the early Semites, have striking resemblances to much that we find in Holy Scripture. The work is translated by M. L. McClure, with assistance of other members of the Committee of the Egypt Exploration Fund, and edited by Professor Sayce, who adds a Preface. The book is brought up to the present year, and takes note of the most recent discoveries.

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