

MISSION FIELD.

ISLANDS OF THE PACIFIC.

The Rev. W. Floyd, our virtual Ordinary in the Fiji Islands, sets forth the needs of the Anglican Communion in that British colony: 'The youngest branch of our Church there is just struggling into life. The aboriginal inhabitants have been converted from heathenism and cannibalism by Wesleyan and Romanist missionaries. With that work we have no intention of interfering; of the 4000 white people the majority belong to the Church of England, and now, for the first time, very much against my wishes, I must make an appeal to England. The church building, erected thirteen years ago, has been eaten by white ants, and is ready to fall; a new church is also needed at Suva, the recently formed capital. Mr. Floyd speaks also of the Coolies in Fiji. They are mostly from Northern India, and number about 4000. The S. P. G. has not been able to help him in placing among them a very suitable missionary—of Brahminical caste—whom he had engaged for the purpose. There are also 7000 Polynesians from different domestic servants and labourers; among these Captain Olive, a hearty Churchman, has effected a good deal. Mr. Floyd represents that this class of people greatly need a school-chapel, and he himself offers a site for it, if the money for building were found. Few calls on the liberality of our readers appear to us louder than this. Of course the S. P. G. will receive donations—for the Fiji Mission—in the usual way.

Tidings from Norfolk Island announce the safe return from Auckland of the *Southern Cross*, its passengers arriving in time for Easter Day. On Easter Monday the vessel started for the 'Island voyage,' having on board the Revs. A. Penny, R. B. Comins, and J. H. Plant, Messrs. Liser-Kaye and Coleridge Harper. After four days Mr. Brittain's village at Raga was sighted—800 miles from Norfolk Island; then the island of Maewo. Next the Banks' Islands were visited—where new stone churches had been built under the direction of the Rev. Henry Tagalana. At St. Cruz (why not call it, in plain English, St. Cross?), the scene of Bishop Patteson's death, Christianity has now obtained a firm footing. This island is about twenty miles long by fourteen broad. After the massacre in 1864 it was not visited by missionaries until 1880, when Bishop Selwyn the younger landed—near the spot where the good Commodore Goodenough was shot. Applications for teachers were now made from no less than six more villages.

INDIA.

The *Indian Churchman* notes with satisfaction the S. P. C. K.'s vote of 5000l. towards the education of Christian children, made at the instance of the Metropolitan. 'One

of the first objects should be to strengthen the institutions in Calcutta, and then to secure efficient schools in the "hills," at which our children may be fitted for such posts as are open to them in this country.'

The same journal, in referring to paltry attacks on Anglican Missions made by the Romanist *Indo-European*, observes: 'In Madras our angry brethren, by their own account, do a great deal of poaching instead of real mission work. Here, in Bengal, they have no really organized mission, but live on the reputation of the past, while their efforts are almost entirely confined to trying to draw away from other Christian bodies the converts they have made. Among the ranks of their clergy they have no natives of the country, unless they be "East Indians" or Portuguese. We have never met with a Roman priest of pure Indian blood. Go through the Roman Catholic Directory of all their clergy and Brothers, and you cannot find four names among the whole which indicate natives. How different is the case with the Anglican Church! She has a real hold on the country itself, and shows that hold by the very large body of really Indian clergy which she possesses—men, some of them, of remarkable ability, able to hold their own with their European brethren, and giving the best promise for the future of the Church in India. It appears that the present attacks of the Romish press have been largely incited by a calumnious article in the *Dublin Review*. Mr. Billing in replying to one of them, declares, "All my time and energy are required to check the efforts now being made by the Jesuits in Lower Bengal to win over to Rome the people who have been baptized by the agency of the S. P. G."'

The growing feeling against enforced widowhood is being curiously shown in the Punjab. Some native gentlemen have started a kind of *Matrimonial News*, devoted to the advertisements of widows and those willing to marry widows.

The *Moravian Periodical Accounts* make mention of the Salvationists having attempted to enter Tibet:— 'In the beginning of August two "officers" of the Salvation Army spent six days with us at Kyelang. They visited the Goupa Convent, but the monks would brook no interruption in the chanting of their litanies, though they were hospitable enough to offer them refreshments. The same lack of success attended their efforts in several villages where they tried to draw an audience by beating drums; the people remained unmoved. Their dress of saffron yellow—the sacred colour of Buddhism—made no impression.'

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