

sick woman had assured the German attaché, when he visited the hospital, that it was her strong desire not to join the Church of Rome, and to be taken from the house that she might escape further persecution. The proposition of the attaché to have her removed, met, however, with the absolute assurance of the hospital physician, that any attempt of the kind must result in the woman's death. In spite of this, however, the official received, a few hours later, a letter, signed by a trembling hand, and written by another person in the name of Rosa Baur, at another hospital, in which the latter notifies that she has abjured the Protestant Faith, and entered the communion of Rome. "Thus has this woman," says "La Capitale," a paper published in Rome itself, in commenting upon the circumstances; "thus has this woman been seized upon her death-bed, and forced into abjuring her faith; and to the sufferings of mortal sickness which afflicted her, have been added the importunities and vexations of clerical fanaticism." We learn with satisfaction that the German embassy has taken decided steps to prevent a recurrence of such infamous proceedings.

PETER HOBGING.

### Foreign Missions.

#### A F R I C A.

##### THE TRANSVAAL.

THIS enormous region (120,000 square miles), which has been lately annexed to the British dominions, includes the great valley of the Orange and Vaal Rivers. Its southern boundary is Bloemfontein. Zululand lies between its eastern frontier and the ocean. Its inhabitants are either Dutch Boers or native Africans. The Europeans are supposed to number 25,000 or 30,000, and it was formerly a Dutch Republic, under a President. The natives are twenty to one of the whites. Constant difficulties occurred between the Dutch and the Africans, and finally the former made war upon Secocoeni, the most powerful and cruel chieftain of the Transvaal tribes. The following anecdote illustrates his character. A little more than three years ago, Secocoeni's second son fell ill and died. The usual question was raised, "Who was to blame, and who should be punished for it?" For two months everyone lived in fear and trembling. No one knew if he would see the sun's setting. A calm ensued, and it was thought the storm had blown over; but Secocoeni held secret councils, and summoned all the witch-doctors to divine the cause of his son's death. He consulted his friends, amongst whom Taueshele was the most honored. Secocoeni entertained this man in a most friendly way. A few days after Secocoeni's brothers, with their retinue, visited Taueshele, and were bountifully feasted. The banquet over, Taueshele was thanked for his hospitality and asked about the welfare of his children. The three eldest sons were particularly enquired for, and ushered into the presence of his guests by their proud father. Scarcely had they been greeted by the King's party and taken their seats, when their father and a sister of his, who happened to be present, were suddenly seized and pierced with assegais before their

eyes, and the terrified sons were told "not to be afraid; nothing should happen to them: they had only, by the king's order, killed one of his dogs." Taueshele and his sister were buried by the young men; but no mourning was allowed to be made; and, having accomplished their infamous errand, the king's party returned as merry as they came.

Against this chieftain the Boers proceeded, 4,000 strong; but they had to beat an ignominious retreat. The Transvaal Republic was, at that moment, bankrupt and incapable of defence; and to save the Boers from danger, if not from total destruction, the country was annexed to Cape Colony and taken under British protection on April 12th, 1877. This appears to have been the personal act of Sir Theophilus Shepstone, the British agent. He is a colonist (son of a Wesleyan minister), who enjoys a high reputation for his extensive knowledge of South Africa and the influence he possesses over the native tribes. The proceeding has been severely criticised, but, as a recent leader in the *London Times* (May 26th) says "The fact remains that President Burgess brought his community to the very verge of anarchy, and that his native policy, weak, aggressive and unjust, went perilously near to placing in jeopardy every European interest in South Africa."

Letters received from residents speak with thankfulness of their having been taken under the protection of the British Government. One correspondent of the S. P. G. writes:

"The tidings of annexation gave us joy. Our national banner went up on many a flag-staff which had been prepared for the honor. A sense of relief came over many a one who for months had had to speak with bated breath. We exclaimed, 'God hath done great things for us, whereof we are glad.' We celebrated the occasion with a thanksgiving service, at which tears fell from many an eye. But, after all, the vast results of the change did not strike us as forcibly as the sight of the red-coats lining the way of His Excellency's approach to the town (Pretoria), and taking part in our service. They were to us the emblems of the discipline and subjection to authority, the lack of which has brought such ruin to this country. May God grant that nothing may hinder the development of what has so auspiciously begun."

As regards Mission work in the Transvaal, the Berlin Missionaries (Lutheran) have been most active. One of our Missionary Bishops, Dr. Wilkinson, after visiting their head station, writes:

"I have had the pleasure of making the acquaintance of one of the most remarkable men I ever heard of. He is a Pole, Merensky by name. He worked some ten years ago in the great chief Secocoeni's tribe, lying in the North Transvaal. There he met with remarkable success, Secocoeni's own relations becoming Christians. This set the chief much against Merensky, and at last he laid a plan to kill him and his Christians upon a certain night. This was told Merensky, and he fled. When Secocoeni found that the Missionary had escaped him, and that some of his people had deserted also, he was furious, and vowed he would follow them, and kill them wherever they might be. Merensky came south and bought land in the Transvaal, and erected a small house, to which, week after week, numbers of escaped Christians and heathen hearers flocked. This expulsion took place eight years ago, and yet to this day refugees are continually arriving to place themselves under their old Missionary; 1,500 in all

have fled from Secocoeni's. \* \* \* They build round houses with little polished red earth walls, and a tiny veranda running round it; and everything within and without is exquisitely neat and pretty. \* \* \* A large school of 300 children is in active working order, while the men work at waggon making, gunsmith works, road and bridge making, agriculture. Just now the people are, at their own cost and with their own hands, building (under the superintendence, of course, of white workmen) a beautiful Church of red brick, 90 feet by 26 feet, with apse and transepts. This will be by far the finest Church I have seen north of Capetown, and is the most remarkable effort, purely native, I ever heard of."

For some years the S. P. G. has been enabled to maintain 6 clergy in Pretoria, (the capital of the Transvaal), in Lydenburg, and in two other stations. They were under the supervision of the Bishop of Bloemfontein, but when the Transvaal became a British Colony, an effort was made to increase the number of the clergy, and to raise a Bishopric Endowment fund. The Rev. H. W. Bousfield was consecrated early last year in St. Paul's Cathedral as Bishop Pretoria. He reached Africa in September last, but had a trying, tedious journey inland. After reaching about 70 miles from the coast, the 15 oxen attached to his train of waggons died from want of pasture. The Bishop writes:—

"We have now been here three weeks, living in our huts and waggons, the land so parched for want of grass that waggons cannot move up country. Wednesday was at last appointed as a day of prayer for rain, and no sooner were the prayers offered than it fell. We have since had a tremendous thunderstorm, to us new-comers, and a day of rain besides, so we are in hope of hearing of grass further on in about a week, and then hope to move. I make the best of my time in coaching my young men and boys, and preaching on Sundays at the various places where services are held in this parish. \* \* \* \*"

"We are now travelling briskly some three stages a day. We were off at 3.30 this morning, and, if hope on such a subject were not annihilated, I should hope to be in Pretoria in another fortnight."

At length, Jan. 7th, 1879, the Bishop and his party reached Pretoria in good health.

The letters of the clergy in these parts are full of apprehension, almost of despondency. They are exposed to the attacks always impending of a savage enemy; trade and commerce are almost paralysed by the general insecurity. We quote in closing, a sad account of the outlook. It is given in Rev. Arthur Law's letter to the Mission Field, and is dated from Lydenburg:—

"We have had war raging during the whole term; and although our town has been protected by a detachment of soldiers, the district has been the scene of constant pillage.

"Slowly and quietly, but constantly, during the last three months, troops and munitions of war have been sent towards Secocoeni's central fortress. There must now be nearly 2,000 men of all ranks, and a number of good cannon.

"The peace and advancement of the whole country, and especially of our district, depend upon the overthrow of this audacious chief. He has achieved a place in history as the unwitting instrument of ending Boer power in this region, and the hoisting of the Union Jack, but I suppose this will afford him little satisfaction when he has to grapple finally with the power which, day by day, is hemming him in, beyond escape."

Regarding those who have fallen in this dreadful strife, the *Edinburgh Review* justly remarks:—"If it be true, as has been said in every age, that an imperishable fame is cheaply purchased by an early death, no victory, no triumph could confer a purer glory on the men of the 24th Regiment of the Line than that which will shine for ever with a mournful radiance on the dreadful field of Isandlana. Those English lads, picked up in the lanes of Warwickshire, or perhaps in the streets of Birmingham, showed in the hour of trial that heroism is of no age or country; they take rank with the noblest and bravest of their countrymen, and it were well that a national monument in our stateliest shrine should hand down to future times the record of their valour and their fate. There is no page in history more touching or more ennobling."

### News from the Home Field.

#### DIOCESE OF MONTREAL.

LAKEFIELD, (The Gore.)—This parish, comprising three churches and congregations, viz., Lakefield, Shrewsbury and Dunany, has become vacant by the resignation of the Rev. L. O. Armstrong (removed to Emerson, Manitoba.) The three churches are generally well filled, and there is a large church membership. The people are for the most part Irish or of Irish descent, and have amongst them several Orange Lodges. Mr. Armstrong's departure is much regretted, and the best wishes of many friends will follow him to his new field of labour in the far West.

MONTREAL.—The Rev. Canon Norman, D. C. L., has been appointed one of the members of the Protestant Board of School Commissioners for the City of Montreal.

#### DIOCESE OF TORONTO.

LINDSAY.—His Lordship the Bishop visited this Parish on Friday week, and confirmed thirty persons. His Lordship also addressed the S. School children and teachers in the afternoon, when an address of congratulation and welcome was presented, and to which the Bishop replied in affectionate and feeling terms. His Lordship's address to the candidates for confirmation, was of the same pertinent and interesting character.

PETERBORO.—ON Tuesday evening, the 10th inst., the Lord Bishop of Toronto held a Confirmation in St. John's Church. The candidates numbering between 40 and 50, and the clergy assembled in the new school house from whence they walked in procession to the church.

ASHBURNHAM.—On Wednesday, a Confirmation was held in St. Luke's Church, when more than fifty were confirmed by his Lordship the Bishop. The Evening prayer was said by the Rev. C. R. Bell, of Lakefield, and the Rev. Mr. Bradshaw, the Incumbent.

#### DIOCESE OF HURON.

CLERICAL APPOINTMENTS.—The following appointments have been made by his Lordship the Bishop of Huron—Rev. R. F. Dixon to the parish of Kingsville, Essex county in the place of Rev. R. W. Johnstone, who has been appointed to the Rectory of Sandwich. Rev. Mr. Forbes, to the parish of Paisley, in the place of Rev. Mr. Charne who has received the appointment to Tyrconnell. Rev. Mr. Miller, who resigns Tyrconnell, has been appointed to the church of St. Stephen, county of Huron. Rev. M. Graham has been appointed to the parish of Ailsa Craig.