

prayers already in the book to the special requirements of his people. Such a liberty, wisely used, will go far towards lessening the controversies on the subject of public prayer, and will, no doubt, prove of general benefit to the Church, care being taken, as the bishops say, "That all such additions or adaptations be in thorough harmony with the spirit of the Prayer Book itself."

#### CHURCH UNION.

With regard to the important question of the union of divided Christian churches, a practical step in advance has been made, by the recommendation that committees of bishops be appointed in different parts of the world, not only to watch for, but to originate opportunities of mutual conference and united prayer, between representatives of different Christian churches.

If this be but carried out in a spirit of simple faith and devotion to the Lord Jesus Christ, one cannot doubt that great good will ultimately come out of it, bringing, as it must, all over the world, men whose hearts are filled with love for Christ, into the closest and most intimate relations.

On the whole the letter of the bishops is full of valuable suggestions, and is the best evidence we could ask of the unity of the Anglican Church as one body, and of the reverence which all the widely scattered children possess for the great historic spiritual Mother which gave them birth.

Each ten years as they pass over seem to bring with them a stronger desire for the maintenance and development of the Anglican communion, for the consolidation of its action and the utilizing of the vast latent powers which exist within it.

Acting slowly, yet surely, by wise suggestion rather than by strong command, these councils are no mere ecclesiastical pageants, striking the eye for the moment, but rather are they gatherings that appeal to the strong intelligence of a widely scattered communion and to its faith and fervor.

God alone can tell what results such a letter may produce, what influence it may exercise on the actions of great synods scattered over the world. We can only hope and pray that as it has been written solely for the good of the Church, it may everywhere be received in a spirit of Christian gratitude; and that more good may come from it than even the most sanguine of our bishops hoped when they gave in their adhesion to its sentiments and wording.

If a man thinks of himself solely as charged with the supervision of a particular parish, he is in that very fact neglecting his duty to that parish, because it is his duty to inspire all those over whom he is appointed to minister with

such a desire for the spread of Christianity and truth over all the world as well as make them ready to take their share, whatever share it may rightly be. You cannot really do what you have to do with your own people and those amongst whom you happen to be living unless you fill them with a longing that the last command shall be fulfilled and accomplished until the glory of God shall shine over all the world, and the Gospel shall spread among all the nations as the waters cover the sea.—*Archbishop of Canterbury.*

#### MISSION WORKERS.

IN THE MOUNTAINS OF JAPAN.—The catechists at Tokushima, in Japan, make a special effort twice a year to visit places beyond the usual radius of their work. The last tour of this kind of which we have heard was specially interesting, for, under the superintendence of the Rev. R. H. Consterdine, it was decided to visit villages in the mountains altogether untouched by Christian workers. We print part of Mr. Consterdine's report:—

"Our plan was to go two and two up the main valleys and preach and distribute tracts as we had opportunity . . . In the path taken by two there were after the first day, no villages, but only many scattered houses; but their tracts were always gladly received, and they had many conversations, for in these parts are many who have never even heard that there is such a thing as the Faith of Jesus Christ, call it by whatever Japanese name you will . . ."

"Paths that seemed intended for wild cats rather than for men, and gullies crossed by bridges made only of long creeping plants twisted together, were among the accessories met with by others. The people heard them willingly. How soon we shall be able to send the message to them again I can only wonder."

#### MODERN MIRACLES IN MISSIONS.

The statistics of the work in Uganda which have recently appeared, bring us "face to face with a work almost unparalleled in the history of the Christian Church." It is scarcely more than ten years since Bishop Hannington and others were massacred there. Bishop Parker, who was sent to succeed the martyr Bishop, succumbed to disease, and he was followed by Bishop Tucker. Now the story is that more than 100,000 souls are brought into close contact with the Gospel; the attendance at Sunday services is above 25,000 and at week-day services over 6,000; there are 321 churches or reading-houses with a seating capacity of 49,751. These churches have been mostly reared by the natives, who support 200 evangelists and teachers. On the last visitation of