THE MISSION FIEDD ANINGS FROM TE CALCULTA CHURCH CONFERENCE. (Erom the Indian Churchman.)

The following remarks were made wMr Mitchell, at the recent Calcutta onference :

Before however I go any further, I mustrasky you to let me refer, very briefly, to the well worn subject of our special difficulties. We can hardly hope for success unless we thoroughly understand their nature. Foremost inongst them stands the vast extent of the Diocese of Calcutta. This of course has been to some extent remedied of late years, and we have now hine Bishops working in India in place of the four who divided the country between them in 1877. But still I question if the world in earlier fimes ever saw such a Diocese as Calcutta still is, extending as it does from the Cathedral city, eastward to Assam, westward to the Central Provinces, and northward to Delhi and Ajmere. In fact, roughly speaking, the Bishop of Calcutta can even now travel eastward, westward or north-ward from his Cathedral for close upon a thousand miles without leaving his own Diocese. Then we have to consider the difference of race, language and interest. Bengal and the North-west are radically different. Assam and the Central Provinces have scarcely anything in common, while Chota Nagpore, Santahlia and some other places, are each of them separate countries, which might well claim their own Bishops and their special arrangements for Church work. A third and very serious difficulty is the continual change that is going on. The Church here has scarcely passed out of that early state of the Church in a heathen country, when it is an exotic body, and the largest part of its members are in many places, ever on the move. Very few of the Europeans and East Indians in this councan say with any certainty. where try they are likely to be this time next year, it God spares them so long. This is a most serious drawback, and tends to repress Church life in many ways, leading too to that isolation which is one of the most serious difficulties to be dealt with in any attempt to organize a really active Church life in India.

These are only some of the difficulties which surround us and I have put them very briefly ; but they will help us I think to realize the magnitude of the problem before us. But what is it we are looking forward to when we talk about the organiza-tion of the Church in India? Few perhaps have thought out the matter. To take this Diocese alone, we have some 70 English clergy ministering to Europeans and Eurasians, and about 50 engaged in Missionary work. We have upwards of 50 Native priests and deacons mostly engaged in pastoral work, while there are a few European and Native clergy employed in Educational labours. As regards the

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CHICKEN CHOLER congregations to be ministered to, enduring character for foreign misthey are scattered all over the country, and vary in size and importance from the two or three at portance from the two or three at thankfulness, and never had there some out of the way Railway or Civil been such a real interest quickened in Stations, far from any church, or settled church privileges, to the large and important town congregations to be found here in Calcutta, or in other large places. Then we have now springing up really, settled parishes of Native Christians, such as those in Chota Nagpore, amongst whom may be two or three Europeans or Eurasians, whose needs must not be forgotten. To add to our difficulties we have almost every variety of race and language, and are continually receiving examples of that opposition which has from the earliest times existed between east and west.

BISHOP OF TRURO THE ON MISSIONS.

The Bish p of Truro, speaking from the chair at the annual meeting of the Church Missionary Society in Truro said :-

That they would never lift up - Missionary meetings to their proper level, and would never really take an interest in Missionary work, unless they continually strengthened their faith and quickened their zeal by going back to the very beginning—the origin of Missions. By our Lord' Jesus Christ this world was created; to Him in some special manner, in the great mystery of the mutual relations of the Three Persons in the Blessed Trinity,-to Him the care of this world had been in some peculiar sense entrusted when it had fallen under the power of the great Prince of evil-the enemy of God and man. It was He who, at the cost of His own life's Blood, came forth from His eternal home to redeem it. Until they had realized something at any rate in their own souls of what was involved in this grea sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ; until, however feebly and imperfectly, they had been taught by the Holy Spirit what they owed to Him Who gave up His life as the ransom of fallen humanity, they would never strike the key note of all that was being done of any

sionary work. Never had there been a day when there was such cause for man's heart for the work of Christ's Church abroad as that which had been awakened during the past 50 years. It was simply wonderful what God had done in this direction. He also stated that man's capacity and power of thought and interest was limited, and in the manifold deserving objects which pressed upon them, in that new diocese, they were in danger of lessening perhaps, to some extent; the interest which was being felt in other parts of England for the great missionary work of the Church. It was now no longer a few persons, looked upon as fanatics, who were taking an interest in missionary enter-prise. The universities were now sending out some of the best of their men; some of the ablest of our thinkers were concentrating their attention on the subject; and some of the most practical men who had been in India, and other parts of the globe, had publicly recorded their sense of the work which was being accomplished by the Missionaries.

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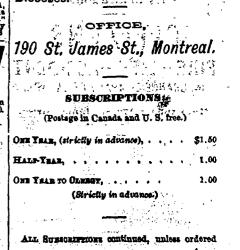
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The Church Guardian

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A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER, NON-PARTIRAN orba Is published every Wednesday In the Interests of the Church of England in Canada, and in Rupert's Land and the North-West; with correspondents in the different Dioceses. Trotter State



sted by Post-Office Urder, REMITTANCES reque

otherwise before date of expiration of subscription.

penable to L. H. DAVIDSON, otherwise at subtoriberts visk.

Receipt acknowledged by change of label. If special receipt required, stamped envelope or post oard necessary.

In changing an address, send the old as well as the new address.

ADVERTISING. THE GUARDIAN having a circulation largely in excess of any other Church paper and extending throughout the Dominion, the North West and Newfoundland, will be found one of the best mediums for advertising.

BATES. 1st. insertion, . . . 10c. per line Nonpareil. Each subsequent invertion. 5c per line Nonversil. . 75c. per line

MARRIAGE and BIETH NOTICES, 500 each insertion DEATH NOTICES, free. Obituaries, Complimentary Resolutions, Appeals, Acknowledgments, and other similar matter, 10c per line. All Notices must be prepaid.

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