

form. We hope, before the monsoon rains begin, to be, with God's blessing, advanced enough to present a front which may be exempt from injury, though not covered externally. The granite will not heed the storm.

"The following is the Address delivered by the Bishop on the occasion of his laying the corner-stone of the Cathedral and Collegiate Chapel of St. Thomas, at Colombo, June 15, 1852:—

"MY CHRISTIAN FRIENDS,—We are gathered on this spot to-day for a two-fold purpose; one, in whichever aspect it is viewed, not without much of a hallowing interest in itself, nor unbecomingly, I trust, to exercise an abiding influence for good on this country. We have just been joined in holy prayer together, and now proceed to lay with due solemnity the corner-stone of that building, which, if God's blessing continue with us, will become at no very distant day, the cathedral of this Diocese,—at least, until a worthier structure is raised by worthier successors, as instruments of God's mercy to this land. It will be consecrated as the diocesan church by its daily offering of prayer and thanksgiving, rather than by a pre-eminence over others (as in our native land) in majesty of external proportion, or richness of architectural decoration. What we this day in humble faith begin, our successors may (if God so move their hearts) complete or surpass. It is not, however, the material fabric, the lofty tower or the arched roof, the mullioned window or decorated column, which constitute the real Church of Christ; but the living temple, built up by the indwelling Spirit of God, in the hearts of living men. These constitute the only true church upon earth; quickened, elevated, and sanctified by the presence of the abiding Spirit of peace, of consolation, and of holiness, in the hearts both of its ordained ministry and its united people.

"Much as I have longed to realize this idea among you, ever since my lot was, by God's providence, first cast within this goodly heritage, the opportunity did not arise till the institution of a collegiate body for the instruction of the youth of this colony rendered such a provision necessary, to complete in all its integrity, though in very humble proportion, the framework of the system, if not possible at once to embody within it all the advantages, of which, at some future day, by the blessing of God, it may be made capable. This we could not expect, or hope even to achieve, in our own day.

"No doubt can, however, exist, that every plan of church education, or of education at all, unconnected with religion, fundamentally and systematically taught, must be essentially defective. It may be instructive, but it is not education: there may be teaching, but can be little training. Information may be imparted, but few principles will be implanted: mental and even moral cultivation may not be wanting, but no real enlightenment or improvement of the heart as well as intellect will be afforded, and therefore no education, in the only large and good sense, in which the word should ever be used.

"From the time, therefore, that—by the assistance of those around me, whose hearts were moved to leave home, country, and friends, for the purpose of devoting themselves in earnest to God's work—this collegiate institution was opened last year, the want of a consecrated house of prayer has been felt more and more.

"I need not remind you, that the school in which our solemn service began this afternoon is not the fittest place for so holy a purpose. Holy feelings are best awakened and sustained with holy associations around to cherish them. This work, therefore, has been commenced in faith; and you have been invited to-day to aid us with your prayers and witness the solemn dedication of this intended fabric to God, as the collegiate chapel of 'St. Thomas the Apostle of India,' and the future cathedral of this Diocese. Nor can we doubt, that in this our united prayer and effort, God's help and blessing will be with us to carry it on and complete it as auspiciously as it has been begun.

"Nor are other reasons wanting which may well enlist truly Christian hearts in the prosecution of such a work in a neighborhood like that around us, where so dense a population is

gathered, to whom the simple preaching of the cross of Christ, and all its blessings of holiness and salvation to man, is as a sealed book, or a cunningly-devised fable. With Romish temples around on every side (not less than six in this immediate neighborhood), there is no single church in which the pure word of God is read and preached, or the sacraments of Christ duly administered, in the whole of Mutwall, embracing one entire side of Colombo. Amid the thousands around, ignorance and superstition prevail. The glare of the nightly illumination and the attractive exhibition—so captivating to the senses of the congregated and un-instructed multitude—in the Romish temples around, are often seen; the clamorous shouting of the Hindoo procession, with the tabernacle or the star of their idol god, is not unfrequently heard; and the votive offering at the shrines of Buddhas, not far away, may be daily witnessed; but no consecrated church of our pure apostolical faith, amid such a mass of delusion, has yet raised its head to diffuse its blessings around. Until lately, not more than a gleam of light has been held forth to dissipate the cloudy darkness. Scarcely a voice has been raised to plead for the truth of God, or preach 'the gospel of Christ,' as 'the power of God unto salvation unto every one that believeth.'

"But soon it will be our privilege, we trust, and blessing too, to offer up within consecrated walls the sacrifice of prayer and thanksgiving and intercession every day. Soon, we hope, on every Sabbath as it returns, He, Who alone is the true "corner-stone, elect and precious," Jesus Christ, the Saviour of fallen man, and His cross, both as the symbol of our suffering lot in the present life, and our rejoicing hope of a better, will be freely declared and freely preached, both in our own and in the Sinhalese language, to all who will place themselves within its reach. By this single structure, therefore, three holy objects will be effected. It will constitute at once the cathedral church of the Diocese, the chapel of this collegiate institution, and the parish church (if one may so apply a term familiar to our ears and hearts) for a large district, embracing the northern and eastern divisions of Colombo, for the European population, as well as for baptized Christians, both of mixed and native race, resident on this side.

"Nor should we be at all discouraged by our small beginnings. This college is but in its infancy; you see it, as it were, but in swaddling clothes. The renowned Oxford, in the days of Alfred, its founder, could have been little more than an alphabetical school: and yet for how many centuries past has Christ Church (the principal college of that University) been ranked among the noblest educational institutions in the world! Its buildings are architecturally the pride and glory of that city of palaces. Its chapel constitutes the cathedral church of the Diocese. Such also, for aught we know, at some future time ours may become. This smallest of seeds to-day, if watered by God's grace and shielded by God's blessing, may grow up and flourish among the noblest of Eastern trees, like the spreading banyan under the shelter of which we now stand, and crowned in due time with God's own abundant and blessed fruit; not, however, in our day, or by our means, but by the help and blessing alone of His grace, without which nothing is strong, nothing is holy, without which, therefore, nothing can greatly prosper or long endure: "Except the Lord build the house, their labor is but lost that build it."

"To one other point, I would briefly in conclusion refer. To-day, in our native country, the solemn Jubilee thanksgiving of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel is brought to a close;—the Third Jubilee of that Society which for a century and a half, has been the truthful witness of the Catholic Church throughout the wide world. Long, very long before the missionary spirit had spoken to the hearts, and spread through the homes of Christian England, this truly evangelical Society, in faith, though almost in silence, proved, from the days of King William, that the Church was not forgetful of her missionary call, was alike true to the doctrine of the cross, and to her own