

S. Matt. ix. 37, 38.—“The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that He will send forth labourers into His harvest.”

Vol. III.

BV  
2500 MISSION CHRONICLE

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# The Scottish Episcopal Church

No. XXV.



JAN. 1883.

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EDINBURGH:  
WILLIAM BLACKWOOD & SONS; AND R. GRANT & SON.  
GLASGOW: DAVID BRYCE & SON. ABERDEEN: A. BROWN & CO.  
DUNDEE: WINTER & DUNCAN; AND W. KIDD.

*Published Quarterly, price 1s. per annum; or 1s. 2d. post free.*

ment Commission — which has involved a considerable amount of territorial rearrangement with regard to natives belonging to our communion. All the stations—except Ncolosi, which is on Church property—have been moved in a greater or less degree,—Umjika only two miles; Jamangillis people and Mehlos (these latter from Mbogotwana) a much greater distance. This will involve temporarily some trouble, and a considerable outlay, in the erection of school-chapels on new sites; but the ultimate result will undoubtedly be good.

Of European work, there is comparatively little. Scattered about over the district are a certain number of traders; but in the lower part of the district these are few. In two places there are incipient villages (they cannot at present be called more) at Qumbu, between the rivers Tsitsa and Tina, about three hours' ride from Ncolosi, and at Maclear, about five hours' ride from Ncolosi, over the hills at the back of S. Augustine's. Both these places have resident magistrates, and a detachment of some 46 Cape Infantry (mostly Roman Catholics: only about sixteen in each place belong to our communion). At Maclear a monthly service has been held by Bishop Key, which has strong-

ly attached the neighbouring people, mostly Nonconformists, to the Church. Europeans are now trekking in considerable numbers into the vicinity; and there will, in all probability, soon be an important work to be done amongst them,—which would, however, require a resident priest, if it is to be satisfactorily carried out.

Having received an application from Qumbu for an English service, I have gladly promised one whenever there are five Sundays in the month—this being the only vacancy until the European staff of clergy can be increased.

At New Tsolo, Mr Welsh's magistracy, some eight miles from Ncolosi, a monthly service is also held in English, which is attended by the resident magistrate from Qumbu and his clerk.

I will take this opportunity of stating that I should be exceedingly glad of altar-linen, altar-cloths, and a harmonium. These are, as far as I have been at present able to ascertain, our most pressing needs. Any assistance towards the supplying of these will be most welcome.

ALAN G. S. GIBSON,  
*Missionary Priest in charge of  
S. Augustine's.*

NCOLOSI, Jan. 30, 1884.

### CHURCH WORK AT DAPOLI.

THE following account of Mission work at Dapoli, by the Rev. Alfred Gadney, is reprinted from the 'Bombay Diocesan Record':—

"There are in the Konkan some thousands of pensioned soldiers of her Majesty's Native army — Marathas, Mussulmans, Chamhars, and Mahars. Four times a year the pensioners of a district meet at a central part of that district to receive their pensions. Dapoli is the centre of a district, and consequently four times in the year there is a large number of men—about 2000—gathered together from all parts of the *taluka*, to be paid their quarterly pensions. As these people are generally here about three days at one time, we have a good opportunity for evangelistic work on

these occasions. One Sunday, while they were here, I persuaded a number of them, Mahars, who encamp by the side of a well near the Church, to come into the Church compound after morning service to listen to something I had to tell them. I spoke to them for about 20 minutes, and they listened very attentively. We are able to go about and speak to little groups of these men in several parts of the camp, at the *dharmashala*, and in the houses of some of our pensioner friends. The ignorance, though, and indifference of these people are appalling. The Marathas, Chamhars, and Mahars are, of course, Hindus; but they know nothing of their religion. They readily observe the dancing and carrying about of idols on certain festivals, but as for



visiting a temple to worship, even as do the Brahmins and some other castes, that is out of the question altogether. 'You are God,' they tell me. When on one occasion I was rebuking a man for this, he explained to me how a certain colonel had used his influence to obtain for him a higher pension, on account of some special service, and then wound up by saying that he looked upon that colonel as his god. It was through his means that he had got as much as he cared for in this world. He had got enough to eat and to drink, and called himself happy; and it is this having enough to eat and drink that causes them to be so utterly indifferent to all religious influences. Some of these men are rich; some have pensions of 40 and 50 rupees a month; and there are others who are rewarded for their services to Government with as much as 150 rupees a month. Nearly every family amongst the Chamhars and Mahars has one or more members of it in the army; and with pay or pension, and a family house and garden, the people of those two castes are pretty comfortable, and are not outcasts in the same sense as the Chamhars and Mahars are in the Deccan. It is not from amongst people in such comparatively comfortable circumstances that converts to Christianity have yet been made in any great numbers, if at all. Work in Dapoli must in consequence be slow; for although the people around us are in debt, like natives all over the country, they are not in want, and are not likely to come to us for their curry and rice. Converts from amongst these people are likely to be such from a desire to lead better lives, and from a feeling that Christianity is the true religion.

"Mr James Parker, the **Mission** steward, who has during our building operations travelled about a good deal, to purchase and bring to Dapoli materials for the houses that could not be obtained here, has had many opportunities of speaking about Christianity; and he has, with his usual zeal, always taken advantage of them. On steamers, in boats, at landing-places, waiting for steamers, and in many other places, he has preached and conversed with numbers of people of all castes.

"We have at length been able to commence work at Hurnee, nine miles from Dapoli. There are many opportunities for direct evangelistic work there. It is a port at which coasting steamers put in, and there are often as many as 500 people from all parts of the district waiting to go to Bombay or elsewhere by steamer. These people, having nothing to do whilst waiting, are willing listeners. Some there are who occasionally make a disturbance; these, though, are generally Brahmins, who wont listen themselves, and try to prevent the lower castes from hearing. The Brahmin's opposition to Christianity is not to be wondered at, for whilst levelling up the lower castes, it levels down the Brahmin, and, from his point of view, a worldly one, is dangerous. At Hurnee we have commenced permanent work by opening a school for girls, the expenses of which will be met out of the Ladies' Association grant. We have no funds for a boys' school at present, and there is no need of one for caste children at Hurnee. A school for Chamhars and Mahars might be a useful work, when its expenses can be met."

Writing on 31st December 1883, Mr **Gadney** says:—

"In addition to evangelistic work near Dapoli, I have visited Hurnee, where we have a school for girls. I have just made arrangements for more systematic evangelisation than I have been able to keep up single-handed. Narayen Babaji Zawalekar, with whom I was before acquainted, has joined the **Mission**. His chief work is to be preaching amongst the Marathas, Mahars, and Chamhars. Preaching to the heathen will now be carried on daily, without being often interrupted as heretofore by my many other duties and engagements. I hope there may be some encouraging results from our increased efforts in this direction. Many of our old friends are very glad to see one of their own people come to talk to them. There is a great gulf between the European Missionary and the educated native, but this gulf is very, very great between the uneducated native and the Missionary. I have found this very much so when going amongst them alone.

Very glad I am that I have at last found a steady, earnest native worker to assist in this department of our **Mission**.

"One of the greatest events of this quarter—I suppose I should say *the greatest* event—was the first marriage from our girls' school. It was also the first marriage in the **Mission** since its commencement. It was a great event for Dapoli; and a good number of natives came to see the ceremony. The astonishing thing to most of them was the fact that a wedding could take place with so little expenditure of money. The first thought of a native with regard to a marriage is, 'What is the amount that is going to be spent?' The greater the outlay of rupees, the better the marriage! I hope this union will prove a happy one. The young man bears a good character, and has got a fair income.

"A very pleasing incident happened a short time ago amongst our Christian boys. I found one of them studying a written paper very carefully, and discovered that he was conning over a draft of rules for a Guild, to be formed amongst the Christian boys. Four of the eldest afterwards wrote to me and asked my permission to form a Guild,

which I, of course, gave with great pleasure.

"The chief object they had in view was a meeting of themselves every Sunday afternoon, at which one of the big boys was to read something, either original or otherwise, for their mutual benefit; and after the reading there was to be a conversation on the subject, to be taken part in by those who should be considered by me competent to join in the conversation, the rest to be listeners. This took place about the middle of December, so I am not in a position to say more about it than that I addressed the boys at the inauguration of their Guild, and made a few suggestions for their guidance. This incident is the more striking, in that it originated entirely with the boys themselves.

"Mrs **Gadney** was on the point of going to England in November, but the inability of the Diocesan authorities to send us other workers made it necessary for her to remain at her post a little longer.

"Miss **Blakeman**, connected with the Ladies' Association, S.P.G., desired a change on account of her health. She left us in April last, and is now engaged in helping Mrs **Ledgard** in Bombay."

#### NEW WESTMINSTER, BRITISH COLUMBIA.

IN the twenty-seventh number of the **MISSION CHRONICLE** (July 1883), we gave an outline of Bishop Sillitoe's proposed summer Visitation of the remoter parts of his diocese. Part of his plan had to be relinquished, owing to a severe indisposition which interfered with his designs, due probably to the excessive fatigue and hardship of rough travelling. Some particulars of this Visitation tour, condensed from the 'Churchman's Gazette,' will, we hope, be read with interest.

The journey lasted exactly four months, beginning about Whitsunday, and extended over a distance of 1682 miles. The Bishop preached forty-eight times, and celebrated Holy Communion thirty-one times; baptised fifteen persons, and confirmed twenty-nine. The whole sum raised by offertories and donations amounted to

\$403.50, and the expenses to \$230. The expenses would have amounted to far more, but for the generous hospitality extended to the travellers in almost every district, both by Churchmen and others; by innkeepers, as well as private individuals. And in this acknowledgment must be included the worthy blacksmith at Spallumcheen, who would accept no remuneration for a long half-day's work. These many acts of kindness formed a refreshing compensation for the weariness, hardships, and danger of the road—and that it needed some such, will be vouched for by any one who, whether for pleasure or profit, has travelled in the interior of British Columbia during the summer of 1883.

Notes of the whole journey are not before us, and would, perhaps, occupy too much of our space. We can only