

What the Mission is.

There seems to be, in many peoples' minds, a very vague notion as to what a Mission means. Well! a Mission is a message from God to our own souls. The Missioners are not coming to bring us a new gospel, but to preach and teach the old everlasting gospel. The Mission is not intended to be an appeal to the emotions merely; many so-called Missions of this nature are worse than useless and positively harmful. It is certainly not a "party" movement. It is an earnest attempt to bring the message of salvation home to our hearts and consciences, to bring us nearer to Christ, to show us the way of life more clearly, to help us to follow more closely the life and teaching of the Master and to find the joy of service and obedience.

A Mission has a message for all. None of us are as near to Christ as we ought to be and might be. None of us can afford to miss the opportunity which God is about to offer to us. None of us can dare to say that we are good enough already and have no need of the help of a Mission. Probably those who do not feel the need and necessity of a Mission are the very people who need it most, and should begin to pray very earnestly "Lord, that I may receive my sight."

Then a Mission has a message to the careless and indifferent, and is an attempt to turn them from darkness to light, from the power of Satan unto God.

How are we to Prepare for the Mission?

First of all, by preparing ourselves. If the seed is to take root and bring forth fruit, it must fall upon prepared ground. If it falls on shallow, or stony, or thorny ground, it cannot accomplish its purpose. Our first duty, then, is to remember that God is calling us individually to prepare for the message, that in the Mission Jesus of Nazareth will assuredly pass by, and that showers of blessings will fall upon prepared and waiting hearts.

Secondly, we must pray: for the Mission itself; for the Missioners; for our Parish; our Diocese; our whole Province. "The prayer of a righteous man availeth much." "If ye abide in Me, and My Words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you." Are we abiding in Christ? If so, our prayers will bring blessings into many lives. We must bring constantly before God the needs of those upon whom we desire blessings through the Mission to fall. We should send in special

petitions to the Vicar for use in the public intercessions. We need not mention any names in these petitions. It is useful to have in the Church a box for receiving applications for special intercessions; they can easily be incorporated with the general intercessions.

But we must also bear in mind that a Mission requires a number of earnest workers to take round literature and give personal invitations to those who are not in the habit of attending Church regularly. It should be the object of every member of the Church to go and fetch people to the Mission; they must not think only of what they themselves are going to get from it. I hope that the members of the C.E.M.S. will regard these opportunities for work as a special call to them to do something for God and His Church.

The Result of a Mission.

The real result of course can be known only to God, but it behoves all those who have received blessings in the Mission to make some definite rules as to their future life and conduct. Some doubtless will apply to their Vicars for some definite work to do; some will give in their names for Confirmation; some will join a Bible Class or Communicants' Guild; some will seek admission into the C.E.M.S.; some may decide to devote their lives to God, in the Ministry of the Church or some other form of service.

Financial.

There must always be the inevitable financial question, however much we desire to keep it in the background.

This Diocese was asked to contribute £400 towards the expenses of the Mission. About £300 has been received so far. It is to be regretted that we have not raised the full sum before the Mission begins, as there will doubtless be further calls upon us. We sincerely hope that the thank offerings at the time of the Mission will more than supply the £100 still required, in addition to paying the local expenses incurred.

If more than twelve Missioners come from England, and there will probably be fifteen, each Diocese will be called upon for a further contribution. Mr. J. H. Sheath, Napier, will be glad to receive any contributions towards the amount needed.

A. W. WALAPU.

[Forms of Prayer for the Mission, authorised by the Bishop to be used before the "Prayer for all sorts an conditions of men" at Matins and Evensong will be found on page 1.]

Church Society.

First of all, might we not have a more expressive name? "Church Society" is certainly vague, and might be said to cover every possible Society within the limits of the Church; there is nothing in the name to indicate what is the particular nature or function of the fund so designated. Why should it not be called "The Diocesan Home Mission Fund?" There cannot be any question as to what is intended by a Diocesan Home Mission Fund. So much for its name.

The importance of such a fund cannot be overestimated, for it supplies the "sinews of war" for the progressive work of the Diocese. The Diocese cannot possibly do its work without the assistance of its Home Mission Fund. In a Diocese like our own, where the country in many parts is being developed and settled, and where new districts are being opened up, it is absolutely necessary for the Church generally to help in the erection of buildings for public worship and in providing a stipend for the clergyman. The motto of such a society or fund is: "Bear ye one anothers' burdens;" if there is one burden which Church people in settled districts ought to bear, it is surely that of helping to provide for the ministrations of religion in the newly-settled districts in the country.

It is not the purpose of this fund to perpetually endow a district, but to assist it financially until such time as it can stand alone; it should be regarded as a point of honour with every district so helped to do without this Diocesan assistance as soon as possible.

The purpose of the fund is Church Extension, and there are several places in the Diocese where a grant, at the present time, from this source would very materially assist the progress of Church work.

The usefulness of this fund would be considerably increased if it could be put on rather a different basis, and if there could be associated with it a "Loans Without Interest" Fund! In other Dioceses and in other religious bodies such funds exist, and are of the greatest possible benefit. If we had a capital sum of say £3000, or even less, we should be able to make loans without interest to parishes for the building of Churches, schoolrooms, or vicarages, and arrange for the repayment of the same in regular instalments spread over