

"The natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness unto him; neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned." Now we must not exaggerate this statement. The Catholic Church knows nothing of the doctrine of the total depravity of man, and she reverences and treasures the natural virtues; but the fact remains that it is only with effort and by the help of the Divine assistance that the natural man can arrive at the hidden beauty and glory of revealed truth. It is quite amazing to see how readily he will put away from him all the elementary facts of religion, which, if true, are of the most vital moment to him. God, the soul, the life to come, are lightly set on one side, and too often are not seriously considered until some great shock of sorrow has come into his life. In the natural man also the Holy Scriptures, which to the enlightened are the most absorbingly interesting literature in the world, excite little or no interest, and they receive but a conventional reverence.

It is, then, no wonder that the Person and work of the Holy Spirit are neglected. If Mr Browning could say of his poetry that it was not written for light treatment—that it demanded and deserved the most serious attention of the reader—we may say something of the same kind, only infinitely intensified, of the relation of the natural man to the things of the Spirit. It is only by the most strenuous devotion, by prayer, by meditation, by constant and sustained effort to keep open the avenues of spiritual approach within us that the realisation of the Holy Spirit's work can be attained. For those who will so apply themselves to His service He has the richest and most blessed rewards.—G. E. Holden.

**Bishopric Endowment Fund.**

The following additional Subscriptions have been made towards the sum of £1,500 asked for in the appeal printed in this month's issue:—

	£	s.	d.
Anonymous ... ..	100	0	0
Sir William Russell ... ..	50	0	0
A. H. Russell ... ..	15	0	0
T. Tanner ... ..	100	0	0
W. Shrimpton ... ..	50	0	0
B. Chambers ... ..	50	0	0
William Nelson ... ..	100	0	0

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**Melanesian Mission.**

**Letter from the Bishop Designate.**

My Dear Friends of the Mission,

My first message to you is full of gratitude and hope. I am grateful for the welcome I have received from you. Letters from all parts of the country tell me of prayer long offered in preparation for the appointment, and give assurance of continued intercession in the future. Many of you already have experience of the sense of being borne along on the prayers of others, as a ship is borne on the waves with a following wind. Such belief, even apart from experience, is the corollary of the Communion of Saints. I imagine that this, which has been an experience full of joy at Home, will become in the Mission Field even more a source of strength and encouragement, that in the Mission Field new meanings of the Fellowship of the Saints will be revealed. As soon as we have said this, we are reminded that this Fellowship is a spiritual bond linking the Church Militant with the Church at Rest. So that your prayers on behalf of the Mission are no longer single utterances before the Throne, but they are caught up in the great volume of Intercession that besieges the Throne, and are accepted in The Beloved. I rely upon you, then, to offer your contribution of prayer regularly, and we shall be the stronger.

My message is also full of hope. Your letters tell of buoyancy and resolution, and vision of future triumphs of Christ in the Isles of the South Pacific. I learn of good seed sown in the blood of martyrs and nurtured with the toil of many saints. Faith tells of a harvest to come in God's own time. Into this work I am sent, and I share the hope of your great enterprise.

I look forward to seeing Bishop Wilson in Adelaide on my way out to the Mission. My Consecration is to take place, all being well, on St. James' Day, July 25th.

Two parish priests have promised to have the day of my Consecration observed as a day of continued Intercession in their parish churches, and I am grateful. If others could arrange this on behalf of the Mission, a blessing must surely follow.

Again commending myself and my work to your prayers, — I remain, your faithful servant in Christ,

CECIL J. WOOD.

Wimbledon, March 21st, 1912.

(Published in the English Log.)

According to the Log, the Bishop-Designate's time was to be fully occupied up to within a few days of his departure from England. Meetings and Services at which he was to be present were arranged to take place at the following places between April 10th and May 15th:—Bedford, Leicester, York Minster, Harrogate, Leeds, Melcourne, Leamington, Bath, Bethnal Green, Bromley, Wimbledon, Tenterden, Cambridge, Crowthorne, Winchester, Southampton, Bournemouth, Haslemere, Portsea, Cambridge, Tonbridge School, Eton, London, Eton, S. Leonards-on-Sea, and Bexhill.

The engagements in London on May 9th include Holy Communion at Westminster Abbey at 8 a.m., service at the same place at 10 a.m., luncheon in Westminster Palace Hotel at 1.15 p.m., meeting at the Hoare Memorial Hall at 3 p.m., at which the Lord Bishop of S. Albans was to take the chair, and the speakers were His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Bishop-Designate of Melanesia, Admiral Sir Wilmot Fawkes, and the Rev. R. B. Comins. At 4.30 a reception to meet the Bishop-Designate was to take place. The date of his departure was fixed for May 24th.

**New Guinea Mission.**

The scourge of dysentery seems to be an ever-recurring danger both to whites and natives in Papua. The heroism of the two Mission nurses, who two years ago faced and stamped out an outbreak on a new goldfield amongst a thousand native labourers, resulting in a mortality of 30 per cent., is being reproduced wherever cases of dysentery occur. Nurse Rombley has left behind many who follow in her footsteps. Lately, a planter's wife was brought over to Samarai ill. The hotels were closed against her, so the Rectory took her in. Mrs Ramsay and a native boy did all the nursing. The Samarai people, both white and native, were so afraid of catching the infection that the children were withdrawn from the school, because the teacher lived at the Rectory, and only a few brave ones ventured near. The people are terrified of it, and no wonder, for dozens of natives are dying in Port Moresby and in nearly every village. The planter's wife at the Rectory recovered, to the great astonishment of the na-