

Church Missionary Society.

MEMORANDUM REGARDING EPISCOPAL JURISDICTION IN SHANGHAI.

I. HAVING given careful consideration to the Memorandum on the subject of Episcopal Jurisdiction in Shanghai, placed in the hands of the Secretaries by the Archbishop of Canterbury at Lambeth on November 23rd, 1904, the C.M.S. Committee recognize the desirability of some arrangement between the English and American Churches for the delimitation of Episcopal Jurisdictions in China.

II. The Episcopate of the Anglican Communion in China was first introduced by the American Church, Bishop Boone being consecrated in 1846. He took the title of Bishop of Shanghai.

III. The English Episcopate began with the establishment of the Colonial Bishopric of Hong Kong in 1849. This was followed by the consecration of a missionary Bishop of North China in 1872, with jurisdiction north of lat. 28. Again, in 1880, this was subdivided by assigning the six northern Provinces to the Episcopal jurisdiction of North China, and the remainder to the new missionary Bishopric of Mid China. In 1895 the Bishopric of Western China was founded, with an area carved out of that of Mid China; and in 1904 the Bishopric of Shan-Tung, out of North China. The whole of China has thus been treated by the Church of England as included in the English quasi-dioceses.

IV. The missionary work of the English Church in the present diocese of Mid China is carried on entirely by the C.M.S. The greater part of it is in the Province of Cheh-Kiang; but from the first—that is, ever since 1844—the C.M.S. has also had a Mission, although on a small scale, in the city of Shanghai, which is in the Province of Kiang-Su.

V. The missionary work of the American Church has been mainly in the Province of Kiang-Su, and in the city of Shanghai their work is on a more extensive scale than that of the C.M.S.

VI. It would thus appear that in any division of jurisdiction the Province of Cheh-Kiang would naturally be retained by the English Bishop of Mid China, while Kiang-Su would be conveniently assigned to a Bishop of the American Church. But the case of the city of Shanghai is peculiar, and in the opinion of the C.M.S. Committee needs special treatment.

VII. Shanghai is the most important centre of British commerce and influence on the mainland of China; and the large British community have a 'settlement' of their own, a well-marked area distinct from those of the similar American and French 'settlements,' and within the British settlement is a church for English services, the Church of the Holy Trinity, which has been regarded as the cathedral of the Mid China Diocese. Within this area there is also a mission church with a Chinese congregation and other work in connexion with the C.M.S.

VIII. Owing to Shanghai being a great commercial port, converts of the C.M.S. from the Province of Che-Kiang frequently go there on business or for employment. The present C.M.S. congregation is mainly composed of such converts. Their language is not the Shanghai dialect, but the Ningpo dialect, and in that dialect the church services and other work are carried on. There is, therefore, a natural connexion between the C.M.S. Cheh-Kiang Mission and the city of Shanghai; and this connexion tends to increase rather than

diminish. Moreover, a large proportion of the dense Chinese population in the British settlement use the Ningpo dialect. It is understood that the American work is carried on in the Shanghai dialect.

IX. Shanghai is the necessary base for all the interior Missions, including those of the C.M.S. in both Mid China and Western China; and this necessitates the maintenance there of a C.M.S. mission establishment.

X. The Chinese pastor and congregation at Shanghai in connexion with C.M.S. unanimously and earnestly desire to remain in that connexion and under the episcopal jurisdiction of the English Bishop of Mid China, and very earnestly plead that the proposal made by the American Bishops be not accepted. In this plea they are heartily supported by the European staff of C.M.S. missionaries engaged in Mid China.

XI. The American Bishops 'acknowledge the fact that the Bishop of Mid China has and should continue to have jurisdiction and charge in the Church of the Holy Trinity in Shanghai and its congregation.' The C.M.S. Committee respectfully submit that the native congregation connected with the Church of England should, pending the future organization of a fully-constituted Chinese Church, be under the same jurisdiction. They further urge that it is an advantage to the English congregation to have the outlet for their missionary sympathy and zeal which is naturally found in the work carried on by the Society among the Chinese in Shanghai.

XII. The C.M.S. Committee would respectfully submit that, in the peculiar circumstances of the case, the most convenient arrangement would be the following: That the British settlement, as now, or hereafter to be authoritatively defined, with its well-marked area, should be made an integral but outlying portion of the English Diocese or Jurisdiction of Mid China, thus being an enclave in the American Diocese or Jurisdiction which would include Shanghai. All the work within this enclave would then be naturally under the episcopal supervision of the English Bishop, without infringement of the territorial principle of episcopal jurisdiction, whereas that principle would be infringed by the suggestion made by the American Bishops.

XIII. If this arrangement is considered inadmissible, then the C.M.S. Committee would respectfully ask that careful consideration be given to the question whether the precedent of Tokyo and Osaka in Japan could not be followed, and Shanghai, owing to its peculiar position with very large British interests, be recognized as common ground for the English and American Bishops.

XIV. If the arrangement suggested in XII. is agreed to, the C.M.S. will of course refrain, as desired by the American Bishops, from establishing further Missions in the Province of Kiang-Su under the jurisdiction of the Bishop of Mid China.

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