

The Mission.

IT may be of interest to readers of *The Dial* to know how things stand with regard to the Queens' Mission. As is generally known, since its foundation some ten years ago it has done very good work down in Peckham. It touched a certain class of boy whom few other missions could reach and has most certainly justified its existence. In fact, during the last Christmas vacation, when the club was open three nights a week, there was hardly a single occasion when less than 60 boys were present.

In view of this, therefore, it may seem strange to say that it has been decided to leave Peckham and to seek another sphere of work. A short account of the course of events during the last year may perhaps explain this decision.

In the Long Vacation of 1909 an unfortunate incident, to which we need not refer at greater length, raised the whole question of our missionary's position. We had for a long time felt the necessity to have our missionary more independent. Hitherto he had acted primarily as the Vicar's Curate, and was paid by him. The College decided henceforth to find the Missioner's salary, and an appeal was sent out to old Queens' men. The stipend we suggested was £150, and everybody pointed to our being able to raise it.

The Rev. R. L. Gardner had resigned, and we had to look for another man. Before we could do this we had to come to an agreement with the Vicar, and this was a matter of some difficulty.

Negotiations dragged on for a long time and it was at last arranged that we should have a personal interview with the Vicar at the Bishop of Southwark's residence. So, towards the end of last May, a sub-committee, consisting of the Rev. C. T. Wood, F. C. Clare and J. R. Wade met the Vicar and a friend at the Bishop's. At last we arrived at a basis of agreement. The Bishop earned our gratitude by the infinite trouble he took to bring about a settlement.

The Long Vacation had now come, and we had no Missioner. Mr. Wood wrote to several old Queens' men asking them to become Missioner, but he met with no success. Negotiations were entered upon with many of them, but all in vain, because, even with the agreement signed, the exact measure of independence did not suit them. Even during the Michaelmas term we did not despair, but when we returned to Cambridge this term it was realised that some other steps would have to be taken.

It was suggested then that we should leave Peckham. Against this there was urged the flourishing condition of the club, and it was felt that we could not leave unless we had a definite promise from somebody to carry on our work. We were fortunate in obtaining this from Bradfield College who also had a Mission in Peckham. Bradfield was willing to take on our club in its entirety and so we were free.

Our next step was to write to the Bishop of Woolwich asking him to suggest places where our Mission would be welcomed. This he did and we held a preliminary committee meeting to consider them. A sub-committee went up to town and looked at two parishes which

seemed to be specially in need. They were Christ Church, Rotherhithe, and St. Luke's, Deptford.

Deptford did not seem very promising. It was dull and uninspiring, and, to the eye, was too respectable. Its need for extra work was undoubted, but it was the work which only additional curates could perform satisfactorily. Rotherhithe promised very well. There is urgent need for work. Jesus College used to have a Mission there, but for some reason or other it fell through. The population numbers about 6,000 people, a good portion of which is ever changing. There are several slums of the worst description. The opportunities for doing good there are, it will be seen, immense. It has therefore been decided to go to Rotherhithe, if we can come to terms with the Vicar, as seems likely.

The College House is on the river side, some distance below the Tower Bridge. It is a good sized house, with three or four large rooms and about three smaller ones. There is a charming view from the leads both up and down the river, and the continual business of the river itself must be most interesting to any observer. We can heartily recommend all Queens' men to pay it a visit, if for that alone. There are larger rooms in the parish which we could use for any boys supper or big gathering.

Final arrangements yet remain to be made. It is proposed to get the house next door to the College House, and connect the two. This would mean that our Missioner could live on the spot, and would provide room for any Queens' men who visited the Mission. We hope by the time the next number of

The Dial is published to be able to tell the college definitely our arrangements.

The Committee wish to take this opportunity of expressing their gratitude to the Rev. R. L. Gardner for the sterling work he did at Peckham and for the loyal and patient way in which he served Queens'. We wish him all success for the future.

The Committee also wish to thank Mr. Hooper, the churchwarden of St. Chrysostom's. He has always taken a keen interest in our work, and it is solely due to his efforts that the Bible Class on Sunday afternoons has been continued and kept up to a high standard during the long period we have been without a Missioner.

It will be seen that prospects are bright. The Committee already hope that they may have secured a Missioner, and we wish, finally, therefore, that Queens' men past and present will rally and help us to make these prospects a reality.
